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Japan

Miyazawa Discusses Issues During Diet Session

Reviews Economy, UN Seat

OW2601073793 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 26 Jan 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Following the interpellation session in the Diet's House of Represenatives, interpellation by representatives of the various political parties today started in the House of Councillors.

While discussing the projected economic growth rate of 3.3 percent, as outlined in the economic forecast for next fiscal year, Prime Minister Miyazawa stated that this growth target is necessary and very likely to be attained.

[Begin recording] [Osamu Yatabe, member of the House of Councillors representing the Social Democratic Party of Japan] With regard to the prospects for an economic recovery, many economists hold the opinion that recovery will be impossible in the second half of this year, and pessimists even assert that the situation will prove quite hopeless within the current fiscal year. Yet, the prime minister holds the optimistic view that recovery will begin this spring. There is a gap of around 1 percent in terms of the real economic growth forecast by the government and the forecasts given by the private sector. Is the prime minister absolutely certain about a 3.3-percent projected growth rate?

[Miyazawa] First, in hindsight, the growth rate for last year's April-June period was zero, and the rate for the July-September period was -0.4 percent. A growth rate of 3.3 percent over these levels is not too much to ask for, and it is by no means something we can brag about. I believe that we should be able to achieve at least this level of growth. [end recording]

Yatabe also claimed that the decline in personal consumption apparently is aggravating the economic recession, adding that the popular consensus now supports income tax cuts to stimulate consumption. He strongly demanded the implementation of a drastic reduction in income taxes.

In response, Prime Minister Miyazawa said that the Japanese economy will enter a very delicate phase in the next few months. He added that he intends to continue acting in a timely and appropriate manner and in accordance with changes in the economic situation. He indicated his view that, if the economic recovery seems to be slow in coming, it may be necessary to implement additional pump-priming measures, including income tax cuts.

In connection with the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal, Yatabe also took issue with former Prime Minister Takeshita's political responsibility. He asked Prime Minister Miyazawa, as the current occupant of the office of the prime minister, for his thoughts on the detestable fact that mobster organizations had been involved in the creation of the Takeshita administration, as well as for his thoughts on what should be done to resolve the issue.

Prime Minister Miyazawa replied by saying that what a politician does about his career has to be decided by the politician himself after he considers whether a relationship of trust between him and his constituents still exists, and whether he can still meet his commitments to his electors. He reiterated his view that the decision on whether former Prime Minister Takeshita should resign should be left to Takeshita himself.

[In a related report carried by Tokyo KYODO in English at 0504 GMT on 26 January, KYODO notes that, aside from discussions about the economy and the Sagawa Kyubin scandal, Miyazawa and Yatabe also discussed the latter's call for Japan to drop its bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. According to KYODO: "Yatabe told the Diet session, 'It is not appropriate for Japan with the pacifist Constitution to become a Security Council permanent member, as the council is the institution with the authority to impose military actions (on nations challenging its resolutions).'"

[KYODO goes on to report that Yatabe claimed that the Security Council "violates the principles of fairness and democracy, as the five major powers that won World War II are endowed with special status." The report concludes by saying that Miyazawa "countered the assertion, saying, 'I do not believe the U.N. Security Council contravenes the principles of fairness and democracy.'"]

Outlines Major Topics for Summit

OW2601074693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0732 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Japan's Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday that Group of Seven (G-7) nations should discuss maintaining and promoting world peace in the post-cold war period as well as problems facing former Soviet republics and developing countries at a G-7 summit slated for July in Tokyo. Speaking at the plenary session of the House of Councillors, Miyazawa also said he will strive to represent views of Asia-Pacific countries at the summit meeting of leaders from the United States, Canada, France, Britain, Germany, Italy and Japan.

On Monday, Miyazawa told the Diet that he would seek to meet a request by Indonesian President Suharto to convey to G-7 leaders the opinions of Nonaligned Movement nations. Suharto, who chaired the summit of the 108-nation Nonaligned Movement in Jakarta last September, repeated his demand for a direct dialogue with G-7 leaders when Miyazawa visited the Indonesian capital earlier this month.

Urges Talks With ROK's Kim

OW2601080093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0621 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday he hopes to hold a meeting with South Korean President-elect Kim Yong-sam as soon as possible to deepen relations between the two countries.

Addressing a plenary session of the House of Representatives, Miyazawa said further development of Japan-South Korea relations are important not only for the two countries but also for prosperity and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Miyazawa added he will closely cooperate with Kim in further promoting relations with Seoul.

The prime minister, however, stopped short of clarifying whether he plans to attend Kim's presidential inauguration ceremony to be held in Seoul on February 25. Earlier this month, Miyazawa reportedly indicated that he will not attend the ceremony.

Views Constitutional Revision

OW2601085393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0843 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa gave the green light Tuesday for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leadership to start intra-party discussions on possible revision of the Constitution, party officials said. In a meeting with LDP Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, Miyazawa, who also serves as LDP president, approved a plan to start the debate at the party's research commission on the Constitution.

Responding to growing calls for revising the Constitution, Miyazawa told the plenary session of the House of Representatives on Tuesday there is not yet any public consensus for such move and the government is not planning any amendments at the moment. However, the prime minister said he welcomes discussion of the matter.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe has called for a constitutional revision to enable the Japanese contingent in the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cambodia to join activities that could involve the use of force. His proposal also won support from Mitsuzuka.

Article 9 of the Constitution bans the use of force to resolve international conflicts.

Reluctant on Peacekeeping Force Use

OW2601113593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1113 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa hinted Tuesday that Japan would not allow its peacekeepers to use military force abroad even if the United Nations gives it permanent membership on the UN Security Council.

"The UN Charter does not mandate that its security council permanent members join peacekeeping operations that may involve the use of force," Miyazawa said at a House of Representatives session.

He made the statement in response to a question by Democratic Socialist Party chairman Keigo Ouchi.

Ouchi sought Miyazawa's view on whether Japan would be able to fully observe its duties if it became a Security Council permanent member without eliminating a legal constraint banning participation in hazardous aspects of peacekeeping activity.

Last December, a UN General Assembly session adopted a Japanese proposal calling for a fairer distribution of the 15 Security Council seats and an expansion of the five-member permanent membership, heightening the possibility that Japan may become a permanent member.

Although Japan enacted a law in 1992 empowering a limited overseas deployment of its military to assist UN peacekeeping operations, a legal provision bans its peacekeepers from joining activities that may involve the use of force.

Another provision says new legislation would be required to lift the ban.

Miyazawa said, "I would like to see whether the public would welcome the Self-Defense Forces' activities in Cambodia in actuality without predicting whether the law might be altered in the future."

He hinted at Japan's reluctance to join a more heavily armed UN "peacemaking" forces whose creation was proposed by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, while expressing readiness to join debate on the proposal.

"Whether Japan would participate in such peacemaking forces falls into a different category of issues" from the issue of whether Japan will join the debate on their creation, he said.

Overseas use of force may lead [to] Japan becoming involved in a war, he said.

Although Japan would repel foreign invading forces alongside US forces should it be invaded on the basis of "its right to collective security," Article 9 of the Constitution bans Japan from using force overseas, he said.

Meanwhile, the proposal of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to introduce a single-seat constituency system in the lower house came under fire from opposition members, who called the system a scheme to perpetuate the LDP's grip on power.

Ouchi denounced it as being "overwhelmingly advantageous for the ruling party due to what political scientists call the rule of triple-multiplying."

"Political scientists agree that once the single-seat constituency system is introduced, a party which secures twice the number of votes garnered by its rival would be able to obtain eight times the number of parliamentary seats than that of its rival."

Ouchi cited examples of Britain, Canada and South Korea, where he said votes cast for opposition parties tend to be squandered as "dead ballots" that cannot elect the recipient candidate.

Japanese Communist Party Vice Chairman Mitsuhiro Kaneko also rapped the proposed system as a scheme to slash the parliamentary presence of opposition parties.

He urged Miyazawa to place priority on alleviating the disparity in the weight of votes in underrepresented and overrepresented constituencies, saying, "In Japan, 46 million eligible voters reside in constituencies with a disparity of more than 2 to 1."

Miyazawa defended the single-seat system, saying it would help alleviate money-dominated election campaigns by encouraging voters to cast ballots for candidates from different parties on the basis of their policy differences.

Agriculture Minister Returns From EC Talks

OW1701091093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0832 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 17 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu returned home Sunday after winding up farm trade talks with European Community (EC) leaders in Brussels.

Tanabu met EC Agriculture Commissioner Rene Steichen, who pressed Tokyo to drop its opposition to a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) proposal to replace Japan's import ban on foreign rice with tariffs.

He also attended the fifth Japan-EC ministerial meeting.

Planning Head Vows More Efforts on Rice

OW2001135893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1303 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Japan's chief economic policy planner promised Wednesday he would make further efforts to satisfy consumers on the controversial issues of opening the rice market and introducing a product liability (PL) system.

Hajime Funada, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, met with representatives of the Japan Housewives Association and seven other consumer groups.

The groups called for careful measures on the rice issue, concerned about whether Japan can handle a "food crisis" if the rice market is liberalized.

Funada said his agency will work harder to improve consumer policies through closer contact with related ministries and agencies and local public authorities.

Funada was positive about introducing a product liability system, promising efforts to explain the system more clearly to companies.

The product liability system, proposed by the government's advisory body social policy council, is facing strong objections from companies and a decision on its introduction has been postponed since last year.

But the panel said Tuesday it will make a decision by this fall, recommending a system modeled on one implemented in the European Community (EC).

Bill Eases Farm Corporation Investment Curbs

OW2601083893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0446 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry on Tuesday unveiled a bill to allow commercial companies to invest in farm corporations.

Ministry officials said the bill to revise the farmland law was reported the same day to the agriculture and forestry division of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

It would allow an individual commercial company to acquire a stake of a maximum 10 percent in farm corporations and restrict the total share held by private companies in any farm corporation to 25 percent.

At present, only farm owners and full-time farmers are allowed to invest in farm corporations.

The legislation, scheduled to be submitted to the current ordinary Diet session for approval, would also restrict corporate investors in farm corporations to companies that can offer patents, technologies and affiliated know-how to the corporations, the officials said.

The revision was proposed to expand the scale of Japan's farming as the nation faces mounting pressure for the opening of its rice market, the officials said.

French Trade Minister Denies Exports Limit

OW2101120893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1115 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Bruno Durieux, French minister [delegate] in charge of external trade, denied a report that his country will continue limiting the number of registered Japanese vehicles this year against an automobile agreement between Japan and the European Community (EC), government officials said.

Durieux, who is currently visiting Tokyo, made the statement during a meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori, who asked whether or not the report was true, ministry officials said.

The officials quoted Durieux as saying that France has no intention to deviate from the Japan-EC auto agreement.

Under the agreement, EC member nations are required to scrap quotas and any other limits imposed on Japanese car imports effective January 1 this year.

In this regard, however, Durieux indirectly asked Japan for a cut in vehicle exports, less than last year's monitoring volume of 1,185,000 units, by saying he wished Japan will take into account an expected drop this year in demand for cars in the European market, the officials said.

Durieux later met Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, calling on Japan to make further efforts to reduce the surplus in its trade with the European Community (EC).

The French minister suggested that the current imbalance be settled through a more equal expansion of trade.

Watanabe replied that Japan has been working hard to build up imports through such measures as the integrated economic package.

He blamed what he described as the EC's relatively low interest in trade with Japan for the current comparatively small amount of trade between the two partners, asking for further efforts to develop a new market in Japan.

French Assembly Speaker Meets With Sakurauchi

OW2501041593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0357 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 25 KYODO - France's National Assembly President Henri Emmanuelli told House of Representatives speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi on Monday that development of relations between France and Japan will be more important in the post-cold war era.

Emmanuelli, who paid a courtesy call on Sakurauchi in the Diet, was quoted as saying, "a tripolar system centered on the United States, Japan and Europe will be created hereafter."

Sakurauchi told Emmanuelli that the United States, Europe and Japan will have more responsibility in the world following the end of the cold war.

Japan and France should have more frequent dialogues and cooperate to build stability and peace in the world, he said.

In the meeting with Sakurauchi, Emmanuelli conveyed an invitation to Emperor Akihito to visit France, the officials said.

U.S.'s Christopher on UNSC Seat for Tokyo

OW2501235493 Tokyo KYODO in English 2306 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Washington, Jan. 25 KYODO—Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Monday supported permanent Japanese and German membership on the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] and said he expects some movement on the idea.

Christopher said making the two major economic powers additional permanent members of the Security Council would make the 47-year-old world body more in tune with the world's realities today, but cautioned there were difficulties involved.

"I suspect we'll see some developments in that direction," he said but added quickly that he "wouldn't want to underestimate the complexity of making that change."

Christopher was speaking at a gathering of State Department employees at the start of his tenure as the nation's top diplomat.

A former deputy secretary of state in the administration of President Jimmy Carter, Christopher was sworn in as the new secretary of state Friday.

During the presidential election campaign last year, President Bill Clinton favored making Japan and Germany permanent members of the Security Council, an idea also backed by previous administrations.

"I think it's time for reorganization of the United Nations to bring it into keeping with modern realities," Christopher said when asked by a State Department employee whether the Security Council should make room for new permanent members.

The U.N. Charter, drawn up near the end of World War II, made five countries—the United States, Britain, France, China, and the former Soviet Union, now Russia—permanent members of the 15-member Security Council. Each of the five has the power to veto any decision adopted by the body.

Japan, the second largest contributor after the U.S. to the U.N. budget and currently one of the 10 rotating Security Council members, says it wants a permanent seat at the U.N. Security Council to reflect its growing international role.

Christopher said making Japan and Germany permanent members of the Security Council would inevitably trigger similar demands by other countries.

"When you begin to make changes there are other people who feel that they are entitled to a seat at the table," he said.

Christopher also outlined the philosophy he said he plans to bring to the stewardship of the State Department under the new Clinton administration.

"A new set of precepts for this new era (is) to develop a Clinton foreign policy that's creative and flexible and proactive," he said.

Christopher said an early test to that philosophy will come in former Yugoslavia which he said is going to be "one of the highest priorities" in Clinton's foreign policy.

U.S. Support for Seat Welcomed

OW2601034093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0323 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Japan on Tuesday welcomed U.S. support for permanent Japanese and German membership on the U.N. Security Council.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said Japan is confident of its foreign policy, which is centered on international organizations such as the United Nations.

"We feel we can meet the demands," Kono said at a news conference when asked to comment on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's backing for Japan to hold a permanent seat on the Security Council.

Christopher told State Department employees Monday at a question- and-answer session, "I think it's time for reorganization of the United Nations to bring it into keeping with modern realities."

He said he expected to see "some developments" in the direction of widening permanent membership to include Germany and Japan, but that the process would be complex.

The Security Council has five permanent members with veto power—the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia—and 10 rotating members. Japan currently holds one of the 10 rotating seats.

Japan, the second-largest financial contributor to the U.N. after the U.S., is seeking international support for a permanent seat.

Okinawans on Hopes for Military Land Return

OW2101114593 Naha NHK Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Following the inauguration of Bill Clinton—who has promised to implement drastic cuts in the U.S. Armed Forces to reduce military expenditures—as the new U.S. President, in Okinawa, where vast U.S. military bases are located, expectations are high about the acceleration of the process of returning military land.

Bill Clinton, who has just been inaugurated as the 42d President of the United States, is the first U.S. President born after World War II. He is 46 years old. In terms of his military policy, President Clinton has made a public commitment during the presidential campaign to substantially reduce the size of U.S. forces, particularly those stationed in Europe, and effect a drastic cut in military spending to reduce the U.S. deficit.

While Clinton has not specifically discussed U.S. forces in Asia, including those in Japan, Okinawa, which hosts vast U.S. military bases, pins high hopes on Clinton to step up the process of returning military land. Governor Ota and other Okinawan officials plan to visit the United States in May to appeal to the U.S. Government for the consolidation and rollback of U.S. military bases in Okinawa. Nevertheless, there are also Okinawans who are concerned about the negative effects on the economy of the scaling back of the bases. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording of Naoyoshi Sunagawa, secretary general of the Okinawa Prefectural Military Landowners Association] From past experience, we believe that those measures taken after land has been returned have been inadequate. The return of military land has tended to engender more problems than benefits. What we now desire most is that more adequate measures are taken in this regard. [end recording]

MITI Responds 'Coolly' to U.S. Duties Plan

OW2601084893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0838 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Japan's trade ministry responded coolly to a report from New York that the "Big Three" U.S. automakers intend seeking punitive duties on all imported cars, a ministry official said Tuesday.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) official said, "We cannot understand on what grounds they are complaining. Even if they actually file complaints, it is another matter whether the U.S. Government will accept them."

THE NEW YORK TIMES on Tuesday quoted a federal trade official as saying the automakers hope to file complaints at the Commerce Department within two or three weeks. The newspaper said they will claim that Japanese and European automakers are selling cars for less in the United States than they charge for the same models at home.

The ministry seems intent on taking a wait-and-see stance in this matter with the MITI official saying it will be some time for the U.S. Government to make a preliminary judgment if the charges are true. The official also said, "In case they really file complaints, intense objections would be voiced not only by Japan but also by European nations."

Mitsubishi Signs Radar Contract With U.S.

OW2501235393 Tokyo KYODO in English 2309 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Mitsubishi Electric Corp. has signed a contract to provide the U.S. Air Force with radar equipment it developed for use in Japan's next-generation jet fighter, the FSX, a leading economic newspaper reported Tuesday.

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said the deal is the first transfer of Japanese military technology to the United States.

The equipment in question is the core of the so-called active phased array radar developed for the FSX fighter, which is now being developed jointly by Japan and the United States, the newspaper said.

Japan bans exports of military goods and technology to foreign countries, but allows the transfer of military technology to the United States.

More on Radar Technology Transfer

OW2601094993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Mitsubishi Electric Corp. disclosed Tuesday it has signed an agreement to provide the U.S. Defense Department advanced technology developed for the next-generation support fighter for Japan's defense.

The major Japanese electronics company said fees to be collected from the Defense Department will amount to about 100,000 dollars, as well as some experimental data. The company said the technology to be transferred to the United States is called the active phased array radar, a computer-controlled system capable of tracking a plural number of targets at one time.

The system was developed for Japan's next-generation support fighter, codenamed FSX, now under development jointly by Japan and the United States. A formal agreement will be signed in the near future with the technology transfer taking place in July, the company said.

Steel Firm Refuses To Give Data to U.S.

OW2601091893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0901 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd. disclosed Tuesday it has declined to submit some data on steel production costs requested by the United States in connection with dumping charges against Japanese and other steelmakers. The major Japanese steel firm said that information requested by the Commerce Department was about its management, including costs of factory operations as well as those of steel production and processing.

"We have hitherto complied with U.S. requests as much as possible but this time refused to submit some of the data sought by the Commerce Department because it involves information concerning management of our company," a company official said. The official said the Commerce Department was notified of the decision earlier this month.

Reports from Washington said the Commerce Department is expected to make a provisional ruling Wednesday that steel imports from Japan and other countries have been sold in the United States at prices below production costs. The ruling will be in compliance with a petition filed by U.S. steelmakers against their competitors in 21 countries around the world.

The final decision will be made by the Commerce Department and the U.S. International Trade Commission in April and May, respectively.

Sumitomo said the Commerce Department is expected to impose a penalty tariff exceeding 100 percent on its steel exports to the United States for refusing to submit the request cost data.

Diplomatic Offices Open in Ex-Soviet Republics

OW1901113393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1012 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Japan will establish diplomatic offices from Wednesday in the former Soviet republics of Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

The offices, to be situated in hotels in the capitals of the four republics, will serve as embassies pending the arrangement of acceptable buildings to house them permanently, spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told reporters.

He said each office will initially be staffed by two diplomats, including a chief of mission.

A ministry source said, however, ambassadors will not likely be named to three of the embassies—those in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan—until the coming spring or summer.

Japan has established diplomatic relations with all 15 former Soviet republics. Aside from its embassy in Russia, however, Japan has opened only one other embassy—in the Baltic state of Estonia earlier this month.

The source said Japan is likely "in the not too distant future" to decide to set up embassies in some of the nine remaining former Soviet republics, most of which are now dealt with through the Japanese embassy in Moscow.

MITI Offers Productivity Center to Hungary

OW1801132893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1223 GMT 18 Jan 93

Jan. 18 KYODO—Japan has offered financial and technical cooperation for the establishment of a productivity center in Hungary, Japanese officials said Monday.

The offer was contained in a six-point proposal made by International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori in meetings with Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and Bela Kadar, minister of international economic relations.

Mori arrived in Budapest after attending a ministerial meeting between Japan and the European Community in Brussels last week.

A Japanese survey mission will be sent to Hungary to probe ways for Japan to help improve the productivity of private industries, the officials said.

Japan will also help Hungary promote investment overseas and will offer yen credits to prevent environmental pollution as part of its official development assistance.

Japan will maintain the current export insurance ceiling for Hungary—set at 400 million dollars for the two years from September 1991—and cooperate in promoting exports of processed food to Japan, the officials said.

Eight Chinese Found Guilty of Illegal Entry

OW2501085293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Wakayama, Jan. 25 KYODO—The Wakayama District Court on Monday found eight Chinese guilty of illegal entry into Japan and gave each eight-month prison eentences suspended for two years. Judge Yoshimichi Takigawa said he could sympathize with the motives of the eight defendants, who all came from Fujian Province, but added that their responsibility for the crime was grave.

The court said the Chinese nationals landed without passports in Tanabe, Wakayama Prefecture, last June 27 after a journey from China by wooden boat. The eight are likely to be handed over to immigration authorities and deported to China.

Poll on Attitudes Toward Global Relations

OW1701092493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0844 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 17 KYODO—Maintaining international peace and safety is the most important task for Japanese international cooperation through the United Nations, according to 68.7 percent of those surveyed for an annual opinion poll on diplomacy released by the prime minister's office on Sunday.

Analysts said the survey apparently indicated that a considerable number of people understand the significance of Japan's international cooperation through the United Nations following Japan's first overseas dispatch of ground troops as UN peacekeepers in Cambodia last year.

Outside of cooperating with UN efforts, 49.7 percent of the respondents said tackling global issues such as environmental preservation should be Japan's main international role.

As for the opening of Japanese markets, such as the rice market, to imports, 16.7 percent of pollees said Japan should work positively toward opening its markets further, the survey showed.

However, the poll did not specifically ask about the opening of the rice market, a politically touchy area.

Japan should open its markets to create a better trade balance with markets in the United States and Europe, 35.6 percent of the respondents said.

The combined percentage of those who are positive or flexible about opening of Japanese markets numbered 52.3 percent, a slight increase of 0.9 percentage point from last year's survey, it showed.

However, those who are cautious about the opening of the market increased to 36.6 percent, an increase of 1.7 percentage points from the previous survey, it said.

The prime minister's office surveyed 3,000 eligible voters nationwide last October. The response rate was 72.2 percent.

As for relations with major nations, a combined 73.7 percent of the respondents said they feel friendship for or a sense of closeness to the United States rather than other nations.

As for Russia, 79.6 percent of the pollees answered that they do not feel any friendship for Russia, an increase of 10 percentage points from the previous survey.

Analysts said Russian President Boris Yeltsin's abrupt cancellation of a planned visit to Japan last September and the lack of progress on the issue of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido apparently affected the popularity rate for Russia.

Panel Studies Import Procedures Simplification

OW2501092293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 25 KYODO—A government panel studying ways to simplify import procedures said Monday it will review 35 items, including labeling of food products.

The Office of Trade and Investment Ombudsman (OTO) said the items to be reviewed include regulations on the garages for mobile homes, the period required for reviewing certificates concerning the safety and environmental standards on imported vehicles and regulations on foreign lawyers practicing in Japan. For food products, the office said, the study will be made on requirements for labeling on the date of production and the period during which the quality and taste of products can be preserved.

The office said the selection of the items was made by an expert group after monitoring views of foreign representatives in Japan over the last three months, including the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan and foreign embassies in Tokyo. The office said it plans to work out measures to be implemented by the government by the end of May.

Radios Donated to Cambodia at UNTAC Request

OW2101115593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1124 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—The government on Thursday decided to donate 40,000 portable radios and 1,000 radio cassette recorders to enable Cambodians to listen to a United Nations broadcast for bringing a general election, slated for May, to a successful conclusion, officials said.

Japan will send the radio equipment as part of its contributions to peacekeeping operations of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the officials said.

UNTAC has been waging a campaign through its radio broadcasts to appeal to a greater number of Cambodians to cast ballots in the May election and ensure fairness of the vote.

The decision was reached at a meeting of vice ministers of government ministries and agencies in light of a UNTAC request to provide radios to Cambodians, they said.

It will cost the government a total of 75 million yen to purchase the radio equipment and forward the cargo to Cambodia, they said.

Radicals Suspected of Attacks on Officials

OW2201030893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0244 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 KYODO—Time bombs exploded at the homes of two ranking Defense Agency officials early Friday, metropolitan police department officials said. No injuries were reported in the predawn attacks.

The attacks were apparently set by leftist radicals opposed to Japan's participation in UN peacekeeping activities in Cambodia, the officials said. Police, however, have not yet determined which group is responsible for the attacks.

At about 3:10 A.M., police received a call from Akira Hiyoshi, 59, vice minister of the Defense Agency, the officials said.

A family member of the Hiyoshi household was quoted as saying something that smelled like gunpowder has been thrown into the entrance of their home in Nerima ward.

The officials said they suspect a time bomb exploded near the entrance of the residence as they discovered a broken windowpane, damage from a blast, and electrical leads, the officials said.

At about the same time Friday in Hachioji in western Tokyo, a passenger car caught fire in a garage at the home of Naoaki Murata, 55, director of the Defense Agency's secretariat.

The officials said that judging by leads discovered at the scene, they suspect a time bomb was set under the car. There were no injuries reported in the attacks, the officials said.

Leftist radicals have opposed participation of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) in UN peacekeeping efforts overseas, calling the dispatch of the SDF to war-torn Cambodia an "invasion."

Last October 2, the extreme leftist group Chukakuha (Middle Core Faction) fired homemade mortar shells at the Tokyo house of former Defense Agency Director General Sohei Miyashita.

One police officer was slightly injured in the attack.

Nakasone on Study of Constitutional Revision

OW2301115993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0952 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Shibukawa, Gunma Pref., Jan. 23 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Saturday proposed a study on constitutional revision, calling for Japan to play a greater role in the international community.

Nakasone made the proposal in connection with Japan's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

"Japan's Constitution conflicts with the United Nations Charter, and an ad hoc commission should be established either by the Diet or the cabinet to review the Constitution with a view to straightening out friction between them," he said.

Japan should enhance its contributions to the international society if it wants to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, he said.

Nakasone, citing the collapse of the Soviet Union, said the time has come to carry out sweeping political reform to lay the foundation for Japan to cope with a new world order.

The proposed political reform should be based on debates on constitutional revision, he said.

Watanabe Cautioned About Peacekeeping Remarks

OW2601101193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0953 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said Tuesday he hopes Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will exercise prudence when he discusses sensitive security issues.

"I would like to ask cabinet members to be cautious in their remarks and actions" to prevent misunderstandings, Kono told a regularly scheduled news conference.

In recent weeks, Watanabe, who also serves as deputy prime minister, has repeatedly called for lifting a freeze on Japan's participation in armed U.N. peacekeeping missions. He has also called for debate on the Constitution to ascertain whether Japan may participate in future U.N.-led collective security operations abroad.

The government has repeatedly testified before parliament that the nation's "peace" Constitution renounces the right to participate in collective self-defense organizations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The United Nations Charter has provisions for establishing a military command, but the international body has never done so. The debate on the merits of a U.N. military force was rekindled last summer when U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali recommended creation of a "peace enforcement" force.

[Prime Minister Kiichi] Miyazawa told parliament Tuesday he is not against debate on the Constitution but that he does not plan to seek its revision. He was also cautious on Butrus-Ghali's proposal, saying it needed further examination.

Obuchi Favors Miyazawa's Reelection Bid

OW1701104393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1015 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Maebashi, Jan. 17 KYODO—Keizo Obuchi, leader of a new faction within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said Sunday he supports Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's bid to be reelected party president and to execute his newly proclaimed "Miyazawa doctrine."

Obuchi, a former LDP secretary general, said in a speech in Shibukawa, Gunma Prefecture, that it is "not desirable" for Japan to frequently change premiers.

Miyazawa's two-year tenure as LDP president ends September 30.

Leader of the 63-member intraparty faction, Obuchi said he expects a general election to be held after the LDP presidential election.

Obuchi called the Miyazawa doctrine "an important policy with historic significance" in the post-cold war era.

Miyazawa unveiled his doctrine on Japan's foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific region during a speech in Bangkok on Saturday.

House Member Kobayashi Resigns From SDP

OW2001185293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1805 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Tadashi Kobayashi, a member of the House of Councillors, said Wednesday [20 Jan] that he will leave the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Japan's largest opposition group whose new leadership was just inaugurated Tuesday.

Kobayashi's resignation, following that of Mariko Mitsui, a famous Tokyo metoropolitan assembly member, is expected to be a severe blow to Sadao Yamahana, who was elected the new SDP chairman at an extraordinary party convention Tuesday.

He apparently is dissatisfied with Yamahana's stance on party reforms.

Kobayashi belongs to a group of SDP freshman Diet members who have been pushing for reforms and he also is a member of an interparty reform group called Sirius, led by Satsuki Eda, a Diet member from the United Social Democratic Party.

Kobayashi, 59, was first elected to the upper chamber in 1989.

Junior LDP Members Urge Takeshita To Resign

OW2601095093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0916 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—A group of junior members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) reiterated Tuesday its demand that former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita quit the party for his alleged involvement in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal. The group, formed with the aim of regaining public trust in the LDP in the wake of the scandal, decided to meet Takeshita and urge him to leave the party.

Following Takeshita's testimony about his alleged involvement in the scandal under oath at the Diet in early December, Shokei Arai, a two-term member of the House of Representatives who heads the group, met the former prime minister and demanded his departure from the party. The group reconfirmed its call because Takeshita remains a party member despite growing public criticism of the allegation that a crime syndicate boss helped stop a rightist group's smear campaign against him when vying for the LDP presidency in 1987.

The group's decision is expected to give impetus to the unanimous demand by opposition parties that Takeshita resign his Diet seat.

Postal Minister 'Under Fire' in Committee

OW2001130693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Posts and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Koizumi came under fire in a Diet committee Wednesday for a series of controversial remarks critical of the postal business.

Koizumi was summoned to the House of Representatives committee on communications to answer questions from seven members of both ruling and opposition parties.

Koizumi's remarks demanding the transfer of the ministry's savings and insurance businesses to private firms have provoked criticism from within and outside the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Responding to questions, the posts minister reiterated his stance calling for a review of the ministry's business as part of a sweeping administrative reform.

Koizumi, who was given the postal portfolio in December, promised, however, to be more careful in his remarks as the posts minister and try to avoid causing misunderstanding.

He insisted, however, that public entities should avoid "obstructing the activities of private institutions" so as to contribute to promote the nation's economic development.

Koizumi also stressed the need for the government to review the loan and investment program using postal savings.

Dismisses 'Attack' by Saito

OW2601083993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0238 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Posts and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Tuesday dismissed an attack by his own vice minister on Koizumi's proposal to privatize the postal savings system.

Koizumi said he believes Toshitsugu Saito, the parliamentary posts and telecommunications vice minister, was seeking a reconciliation between the minister and ministry officials in making the critical comments.

Saito, at a meeting last Friday of senior officials, including bureau heads and local postal chiefs, called Koizumi's proposal "inhumane" and said it was causing confusion among the staff of the postal savings system.

The ministry has been embroiled in policy disputes over the postal savings system since Koizumi assumed his post last December. Takashi Sasagawa, then parliamentary vice minister, resigned, saying he could not follow Koizumi's policy.

Ministry To Retain Bank Stock Dumping Curbs

OW2001070093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0626 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance will continue its restrictions on financial institutions' dumping of their stock holdings for capital gains in connection with their financial reports for fiscal 1992, ending March 31, ministry officials said Wednesday.

The curbs were originally included in a package of measures that the ministry announced last August, ahead of the September 30 deadline for the closing of midterm accounts, to prop up the faltering stock market.

The financial institutions include banks, life insurance companies, marine and fire insurance companies, and securities companies.

Institutional investors tend to sell large blocks of stocks in order to make capital gains before closing their books.

Ministry officials noted there is mounting concern that the Japanese stock market could plunge in the coming months due to institutional investors' mass sell orders for capital gains.

The ministry will also continue the temporary suspension of a guideline setting the ceiling on the payout ratio to 40 percent of earnings, the officials said.

The suspension, which was also part of the stock market support package, was intended to prevent financial institutions from dumping stocks for capital gains in order to retain their dividend payments.

The ministry, however, will discontinue permission for corporations to postpone a writeoff of evaluation losses on stock holdings, the officials said.

They said the ministry will only informally tell the institutions that the stock market support package is still valid, rather than ask them in writing to refrain from dumping stocks, because that could fuel market anxiety.

Despite various stock market support measures taken since last August, the Tokyo stock exchange remains in the doldrums.

Stock Trusts for 'Zaikei' Savings Proposed

OW2101110093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0953 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan 21 KYODO—A study group of the Labor Ministry on Thursday urged that stock investment trusts be allowed as an investment instrument for "zaikei" [workers' property accumulation] savings. By law, stock investment trusts are available for zaikei savings, which is managed by the ministry. But investment in the instrument is prohibited by the ministry due to the risky nature of the stock market.

In the wake of the lingering stock slump, however, the Finance Ministry and the securities industry have requested the labor ministry allow freer investment of zaikei savings into stock investment trusts. The Labor Ministry will examine the study group's proposal and is likely to remove the prohibition within the year, ministry sources said.

The zaikei system is a type of savings where workers agree to subtract an agreed amount from their monthly salaries to be deposited into an account at specially contracted financial organizations. Tax on gains from the system is set relatively low.

The study group said in its report that stock investment trusts can be a good investment instrument if investments are put into various stocks on a long-term basis. The study group, acknowledging there are risks to the instrument, urged the ministry to prohibit short-term purchases. It is necessary to create measures to secure stable profits such as setting an adequate ratio of funds to be invested into stocks, the report said.

Cabinet Approves Real GNP Growth Target

OW2201023293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0052 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet gave formal approval Friday to a macroeconomic framework for the next fiscal year, beginning April 1, with a target of 3.3 percent real economic growth.

The country's gross national product (GNP) is forecast to grow at 3.3 percent in real terms, mainly led by expansion in domestic demand, government officials said.

The central and local governments plan to spend a combined 83.5 trillion yen in the next fiscal year, up a nominal 6.2 percent and a real 5.3 percent from an estimate in the current business year, the officials said.

Of the total expenditure, spending on public works will amount to 38.1 trillion yen in the coming fiscal year, up 9.5 percent, lower than an estimated 11.6 percent rise in the present year, they said.

The national income or the aggregate of earnings from a nation's current production, will increase 4.1 percent in fiscal 1993 to 380.8 trillion yen, according to the officials.

The share of employees' income will reach a record high 73.4 percent of the total national income.

The income of employees will total 279.7 trillion yen, while the income of businesses will expand 3.3 percent to 61.5 trillion yen, the first gain in five years, they said.

Parties Agree To Start Budget Deliberation

OW2601085293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0750 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—The ruling and opposition parties agreed Tuesday to start deliberations Wednesday on the government's draft budget for fiscal 1993 in the House of Representatives Budget Committee, officials of the parties said.

The governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has urged the opposition to start committee debate on the budget as soon as possible, saying its early implementation is essential for propping up the country's sluggish economy.

The opposition parties, however, have threatened to boycott the debate if the LDP fails to meet their demand for the summoning of six people, including former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, to the Diet in connection with the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal.

At an informal meeting of directors of the committee, opposition representatives agreed to start budget discussions after LDP members suggested the possibility of meeting the opposition demand.

Banking Official Urges Cut in Income Tax

OW2601080893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0745 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Tsuneo Wakai, chairman of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, called Tuesday for income tax cuts to improve general economic sentiment while indicating a need to cut the official discount rate to spur domestic stock prices.

Wakai told reporters at a regular news conference that the Japanese economy is in a delicate stage. He likened it to being at a crossroads where it can hit the bottom of the current slowdown or sink deeper into the slump. He said general sentiment about the economy is austere, which is reflected in slumbering consumer spending and weak stock prices despite welcome news like the scheduled wedding of Crown Prince Naruhito.

"I hope the authorities will show some decisive steps about stimulating economic conditions," Wakai said.

"I know there are various discussions but I think cutting income tax is one of the options," Wakai said. He said that although the issue on the discount rate is an exclusive matter for the Bank of Japan (BOJ), he hoped the central bank will "take flexible measures to closely monitor stock market sentiment."

There may be some arguments that cutting the key lending rate charged by the BOJ to commercial banks is not necessarily effective in boosting share prices but in theory, it should have positive effects, Wakai said.

"I cannot be optimistic about current stock prices," Wakai said. His concern is linked to the corporate settlement of accounts for the current fiscal year in March.

In September, banks excused themselves from reporting appraisal losses from stockholding since it was a midterm financial settlement but "we can't do that in March," Wakai said.

He warned there is a strong possibility that general enterprises, weathering severe business conditions in the latter half of the current fiscal year, will try to make a profit on their books by selling stocks. That is even more plausible if companies are uncertain about future share prices, he said. But Wakai also suggested that banks, in reporting their financial results, disclose their financial condition—warts and all—even with institutions that may post deficits for the current fiscal year.

It is important to reveal the reality rather than trying to "fine tune" things artificially, Wakai said. He said honest disclosure of business conditions will eventually lead to capturing client credibility.

Meanwhile, Wakai said the federation hopes to officially decide to make December 31 a holiday for the banking industry. Speaking as president of Mitsubishi Bank, he said Mitsubishi is not considering extending the operating hours of its automatic cash dispenser machines.

LDP Accepts Plan To Lessen Bonds Reliance

OW2601085193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0603 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party agreed Tuesday with a medium-term program for state finances aimed at reducing the government's dependence on debt-financing bonds, which was submitted by the Finance Ministry, ministry officials said.

Under the program, government bonds would account for less than 5 percent of the government's revenue in the general account in fiscal 1995, starting in April 1 of that year.

The program calls for the government to slash construction bond issues by 2.25 trillion yen in fiscal 1994 and by the same amount the following year.

The ministry reaffirmed that it will continue its stance of seeking reconstruction of government finances but observers said it would be difficult to attain the goal in light of a decline in tax revenues due to the flagging economy.

Under the program, the government's revenue shortfall is estimated at 5.3 trillion yen in fiscal 1994, 6.85 trillion yen in fiscal 1995 and 5.95 trillion yen in fiscal 1996.

Tax revenue, which is projected to fall 1.9 percent to 61.30 trillion yen in fiscal 1993, will rise 4.7 percent to 6.4 trillion yen in fiscal 1994, 5.4 percent to 67.66 trillion yen in fiscal 1995 and 5.5 percent to 71.38 trillion yen in the following fiscal year, the ministry said.

The program aims to bring down the government's dependence on bonds to 4.9 percent in fiscal 1995 from 11.2 percent in fiscal 1993.

The ministry was forced to change its stance on government bond issues in line with the government's decision to increase the amount of construction bond issues in fiscal 1993 in order to stimulate the domestic economy.

The ministry originally planned to reduce construction bond issues by 1.15 trillion yen a year for three years from fiscal 1993.

Under the government's economic package, the amount of construction bonds to be issued in fiscal 1993 will be 850 billion yen more than originally planned.

Under the ministry program, the government would rely on taxpayers for 38.6 percent of its total revenues in fiscal 1993, up 0.2 percentage point over the current year.

The tax burden would remain unchanged at 26.1 percent and the social security burden, including medical insurance, would rise 0.2 percentage point to 12.5 percent, the ministry said.

The burden on taxpayers has decreased since fiscal 1990, when it peaked at 39.6 percent.

Steel Production Falls to '10-Year Low'

OW1801074393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—Japan's steel production fell for the second year in a row in 1992, slipping 10.5 percent to a 10-year low due to slack demand during the economic slowdown, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation reported Monday.

In 1992, steel output totaled 98.12 million metric tons, falling below 100 million tons for the first time in five years and tumbling to the lowest level since 1983 when it was 97.18 million tons, the federation said.

Federation officials put the blame on slow demand from major users such as automakers and consumer electronics companies, which has forced steelmakers to cut production for more than a year.

For December, steel production rose 0.9 percent from a year earlier to 8.39 million tons, showing the first year-on-year gain in one year and five months.

But the federation officials said the production level was still low and that no quick turnaround is in sight yet.

Annual Petrochemical Output Records Drop

OW2601092693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0907 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Japan's production of petrochemical products in 1992 declined 1.0 percent from the year before to 6,103,800 tons, the first annual drop in seven years, an industry group said Tuesday [26 January].

The Association of Petrochemical Industries said in a preliminary report that output during the first six months of the year was the highest on record despite the economic slowdown, because exports of resin were brisk. But in the second half, output declined a year-on-year 3 percent as petrochemical makers substantially reduced their production, the association said.

Among the different types of resin, low-density polyethylene and polypropylene hit record high levels of output. Low-density polyethylene production rose 2.0 percent from the year before, helped by active demand in China, while output of polypropylene, in increasing demand for use in automobile bumpers, increased 4.0 percent. Output of high-density polyethylene, on the other hand, fell 4.0 percent from the year before and production of polystyrene dropped 8.0 percent, the association said.

Foreign Minister Welcomes Royal Engagement

OW1901030693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0032 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Tuesday welcomed the official announcement of Crown Prince Naruhito's engagement to former diplomat Masako Owada.

In a statement issued after the Imperial Household Council's approval of the engagement, Watanabe offered the 32-year-old crown prince his hearty congratulations and said the news fulfilled the hopes of the Japanese people.

Watanabe said he is extremely proud of the princess-to-be, considering that the 29-year-old former diplomat established a solid working record in the Foreign Ministry.

The ministry approved Owada's resignation shortly before the Imperial Household Council met to endorse the royal engagement.

Owada is the daughter of Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, the ministry's top bureaucrat. She entered the foreign service in 1987 and most recently worked in the ministry's second North America Division handling economic issues between Japan and the United States.

Toyota, Nissan Start Electric Cars Project

OW1501015393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0120 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 15 KYODO—Japan's two biggest automakers, Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co., have launched a joint project to develop an electric vehicle, the MAINICHI SHIMBUN reported Friday.

The project was agreed on after several meetings between the Toyota and Nissan presidents since September, when Toyota President Tatsuro Toyoda resumed the post, the Japanese-language newspaper said.

Nissan President Yoshifumi Tsuji was quoted as saying Toyota is expected to develop the engines and Nissan is expected to develop the batteries, according to the daily.

The newspaper said in a front-page story the two Japanese automakers decided to take the lead in developing a low-pollution electric car in an attempt to cope with a joint study project by "big three" automakers of the United States, announced last year.

Japan's International Trade and Industry Ministry has set a target of having about 200,000 electric cars in use in the country by 2000.

Toyota and Nissan engineers have been exchanging technological information on batteries and control systems, according to the daily.

In Japan, some 1,000 electric cars are in experimental use by electricity and gas utilities and local governments.

North Korea

Revised Constitution Reportedly Deemphasizes Marxism-Leninism

OW2601104593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Beijing, Jan. 26 KYODO—North Korea will as early as this week promulgate an amended Constitution which features an outline for building its own independent style of socialism, Western diplomatic sources in Pyongyang have said.

The diplomatic sources said the North Korean Government has given Western diplomats a translated English version of the Constitution amended last April by the Supreme People's Assembly, Pyongyang's highest legislative body. The content of the Constitution almost matches the Constitution made public last November by South Korea's Intelligence Agency after it obtained a copy through its own methods, the sources said.

North Korean leaders deleted Marxism-Leninism as leading national ideas in the Constitution and stressed the "chuche" idea of self-reliance, the sources said. The revisions included a change in a clause that gives supreme military power to the chairman of the National Defense Committee, currently headed by President Kim Il- song, the sources said.

Authorities Restrict PRC Contacts, Prohibit RENMIN RIBAO

OW2601132993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1307 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Beijing, Jan. 26 KYODO—North Korean has tightened restrictions on contacts with Chinese residents in the country since the establishment last August of diplomatic ties between China and South Korea, Western diplomatic sources in Pyongyang say.

The sources quoted a Chinese living in North Korea as saying "close Korean friends have stopped visiting my house and have become afraid of having frank talks with us." Another Chinese told the diplomatic sources that during recent months, Chinese traders who travel across the China-North Korea border had been arrested and their baggage seized by North Korean authorities.

About 8,000 Chinese live in North Korea as permanent residents, including 2,000 in Pyongyang.

The Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang has acknowledged the incidents and repeatedly asked that appropriate measures be taken, the sources said.

North Korean authorities early this month prohibited the bringing of the Chinese Communist Party newepaper PEOPLE'S DAILY [RENMIN RIBAO] into the country.

The embassy sources suggested that the north's actions may be in retaliation against the establishment of China-South Korea diplomatic ties. The measures may also have been taken in order to limit North Koreans' information about China's reform and open door policies, the sources said.

KCNA Views ROK Foreign Ministry on Clinton's Inauguration

SK2301102793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 23 (KCNA)—The South Korean "Foreign Ministry," in regard to Bill Clinton's inauguration as U.S. President, said on January 21 that it would "go over to an active and offensive policy" so as to establish "companion relationship" in "trade with the United States," a Seoul-based radio report said.

Relationship between the suzerain state and its colony is that of domination and submission. "Companion relationship" is out of the question.

This is illustrated by the relations between South Korea and the United States.

The United States is now pressuring South Korea to open its market totally, while building higher barriers to the import of South Korean goods.

In actuality, the proportion of the U.S. in the South Korean export markets dropped from 38.7 percent in 1987 to 29.8 percent in 1990, 25.8 percent in 1991 and 24 percent last year.

Nevertheless, the United States is threatening that the South Korean authorities would face "pressure of bilateral negotiations" unless they totally open the market to agricultural produce this year under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

The South Korean authorities' untimely talk about "companion relationship" is nothing but an artifice to conceal their criminal act in leaving the South Korean market at the tender mercy of foreign aggressors, bowing to pressure from the United States, and to lull public opinion.

Overseas Paper: South Organization 'Obstructs' Talks

SK2601000693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2236 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 25 (KCNA)—MINJOK SIBO, a Koreans' newspaper published in Japan, carried an article entitled "Security Planning Board [SPB] Obstructs North-South Dialogue", which charged that the appointment of Yi Tong-pok as spokesman of the South side to the inter-Korean high-level talks and, at the same time, as special assistant to the "SPB director was aimed at ensuring "SPB's" direct intervention in and control over the high-level talks in the North-South dialogue.

At the eighth high-level talks Yi Tong-pok did not relay to the head of the South side's delegation but ignored "Chongwadae's" [South presidential offices] instructions regarding debate on the repatriation of Yi In-mo and exchange of visits between separated families, thus bringing the discussion on these questions to a breakdown, the paper said.

It exposed that the "ministry of communications" was censoring over 1,500 postal matters a day on instructions from the "SPB".

Daily Says 'War Exercises' Violate Nonaggression Pact

SK2401092293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0831 GMT 24 Jan 93

["MINJU CHOSON on War Exercises of U.S. Imperialists and South Korean Rulers Against North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 24 (KCNA)—The South Korean rulers staged a large-scale air war exercise aimed at examining the joint strike capacity of the U.S Air Force and the puppet air force and increasing capabilities of surprise bombing on strategic vantage points of the northern half of Korea in the skies above Kunwi, Yoju and [name indistinct] Islet, South Korea together with the U.S. imperialists On January 20.

The South Korean puppets also held frenzied air, ground and naval war exercises against the North on January 12, 13, 14 and 15.

The ceaseless war gambles of the South Korean rulers with the U.S. imperialists are premeditated and intentional provocative moves to push the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war, a crude breach of and perfidy against the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange between the North and the South."

MINJU CHOSON analyst today says, and goes on:

Their frantic gunfiring and war games almost every day in the new year show that they have no regard for the North-South agreement but are dreaming of gratifying their ambition for "prevail-over- communism unification" by igniting a war against the North in league with the United States.

What the people in the North and the South of Korea want is reconciliation and reunification, ot confrontation and war.

The South Korean rulers must know clearly the nation's will and stop acting rashly, and promptly discontinue their provocative war exercises. And they must unconditionally and immediately cancel the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

If they persist in their moves to key up the tensions, running about recklessly despite our repeated warnings, they would be held wholly responsible for all the grave consequences arising therefrom.

SPA Delegation Departs for Pakistan, Iran, Jordan, Syria

SK2601113993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 26 (KCNA)—A delegation of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] headed by chairman Yang Hyong-sop left here today for a trip to Pakistan, Iran, Jordan and Syria.

It was seen off at the airport by vice-chairman of the SPA Paek In-chon and diplomatic envoys of Iran, Pakistan and Syria to Korea.

NODONG SINMUN Comments on Events, Issues

Miyazawa Tells 'Whopping Lie'

SK2601112793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 26 Jan 93

["False Commitments and Dangerous Dream of 'Great Power'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 26 (KCNA)—Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa said during his recent tour of Southeast Asian countries that Japan "would not become a military power."

This is a whopping lie, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today, citing evidences to prove that Japan has already become a military power.

Japan has come high on the world's list in military spendings. Her military expenditures amounted to 134,900 million yen in the fiscal 1955. But they have annually increased, reaching 4,551,800 million yen in the fiscal 1992. This year 4,640,600 million yen has been allocated to the military budget.

The Japanese Government authorities are modernizing the "Self-Defence Forces" (SDF) and increasing their attack capabilities.

This year they plan to reinforce the "SDF" with many kinds of armaments including aegis destroyers, multiple rocket launching system, new-type tanks "90," ground-to-air missile launching vehicles, F-15 fighter-bombers and Patriot missiles. And three "special units" are being formed for the ground "SDF," and the founding of an "attack army" consisting of a "paratrooper division" and a "marines division," etc., Is being promoted at an accelerated pace.

Japan's emergence as a military power is immediately connected with her aggression overseas, the article says, and goes on:

Last year Japan railroaded the "U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill" through the Diet to pave the way for troop dispatch of "SDF" abroad and sent the first "SDF" detachments overseas;

Japan's increased military spendings and introduction of new armaments are aimed at gratifying the ambition for overseas aggression at any cost along the road already paved for the "SDF's" troop dispatch abroad.

This ambition of Japan is all the more dangerous because it may lead even to a nuclear war.

Japan's moves to become a military power, a nuclear power pose a big threat to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

Japan is intending to become a political power with the backing of armed forces and thus expand her political influence.

However loudly Japan may talk about "peace" and "prosperity," vowing "not to become a military power," while trying to realize her old dream of the "greater east Asia co-prosperity sphere," no one will believe it.

Japanese Army Plans Overseas Actions

SK2601052193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 26 Jan 93

["NODONG SINMUN Denounces Escalating Overseas Dispatch of Japanese Army"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 26 (KCNA)—The high-level authorities of the Japanese Government and ruling party are scheming to let the Japanese "Self-Defense Forces" [SDF] take part in military actions overseas by rewriting the existing Constitution banning it.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says:

This fully proves that the overseas dispatch of the "SDF" by the Japanese ruling circles had been, from the beginning, aimed at its participation in military operations and their promise to confine its activities to non-combatant duty had been a trick to fool public opinion.

The analyst notes:

The realization of overseas troops dispatch means a dramatic change in Japan's state policy.

Having taken the first step into the overseas troops dispatch, the Japanese ruling circles are now embarking upon the escalation of military aggression overseas.

Japan intends to launch into military activities for its aggressive designs under the cloak of "international peace-keeping".

What the Japanese ruling quarters seek is to play the role of the Interpol by dispatching the "SDF" to hot spots of the world.

For this purpose, the high-ranking officials of the Japanese Government and ruling party are openly demanding a revision of the Constitution that renounces war so as to create conditions for engaging in armed intervention and aggressive war by freely mobilizing military power.

Japan's conversion into a military power and the escalation of its overseas troops dispatch pose a grave threat to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

Views ROK Ties With U.S. Administration

SK2501061593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0521 GMT 25 Jan 93

["Traitors' Despicable Demeanor"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the strange moves of the South Korean authorities upon the emergence of the new U.S. Administration.

According to a report, the South Korean "Foreign Ministry" recently said it would strenghthen the system of cooperation with the United States to "check the nuclear development of the North and "promote South-North dialogue." It is well worth noting that the South Korean authorities adopted a "policy" of "increasing the number of sympathizers" within the United States for the continued presence of the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea and showing a flexible response to the U.S. requests for "defence spendings.

This is a mean behavior of those who are steeped in flunkeyist treachery, the new analyst says and goes on:

While persisting in their policies of confrontation and are in league wih outside force, scheming to resume the "team spirit" joint military exercises, the South Korean authorities are describing them as intended for "detente" and "creation of a reunification atmosphere." This is as ridiculous as a prostitute boasting of her chastity.

Far from demanding the pullout of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces, they are working to drum up support of Americans for the stay of the U.S. forces in South Korea, offering a bigger share of burden for their "maintenance." This is indeed, a shameful conduct of those committed to flunkeyist treachery.

As the new administration has come up in the United States the South Korean authorities are doing everything to curry favor with their master these days, talking volubly about "cooperation" with the United States.

What the "Democratic Liberal Party's regime" is now doing predicts that the incoming "regime" of South Korea would follow the pro-American policy of flunkeyist treachery just as those of the "fifth republic" and "sixth republic" had done.

Importance of 'Singlehearted Unity'

SK2601103593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 26 Jan 93

["Singlehearted Unity is Life and Soul of Korean-Style Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today editorially calls for giving full play to the might of socialism of our own style, holding high the revolutionary slogan "the party, the people and the Army must all be united in one mind and complete the cause of socialism to the last!" Which was set forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

Noting that singlehearted unity is indeed a watershed and a life line deciding the victory of the socialist cause, the editorial says: The victory of socialism lies entirely in singlehearted unity. This is a summing-up of the long historical struggle of our people for socialism.

It goes on:

To firmly cement the singlehearted unity of the party, the people and the army at the present juncture is a decisive guarantee for carrying out the vast tasks of socialist construction and giving full play to the advantages of socialism of our own style.

Today the imperialists and the reactionaries are trying more desperately than ever before to isolate, stifle and obliterate our socialism by taking advantage of the frustration of socialism in some countries. Whether the dignity of socialism is defended or not depends on whether the banner of singlehearted unity is defended or not.

Our revolutionary line and principle can be maintained to the last and the precious gains of socialism attained at the cost of blood be resolutely defended only when the singlehearted unity of the revolutionary ranks is further strengthened.

What is important in increasing the might of the singlehearted unity of our revolutionary ranks in every way is for the entire party members, working people and officer and men of the people's army to cherish deep in mind the great honor and happiness of holding the great leader and the illustrious leader in esteem as the centre of unity.

Today the unity and cohesion of society and nation have been destroyed and the army has been split in those countries where capitalism is being restored, undergoing a serious trial, because they do not have outstanding leaders.

Our people are a proud people who are holding the distinguished thinker and theoretician, statesman, the great father at the head of the party, the state and the army. This is our people's greatest honor and herein lies the indestructibility and solidity of our singlehearted unity and a bright future of our motherland and revolution.

We should have a high pride and confidence of holding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is possessed both of literary and military arts and of loyalty and filial piety, in high esteem as the centre of unity, the centre of leadership and the supreme commander of the revolutionary Armed Forces and fully display the honor of chuche Korea which is advancing, rallied around the leader in one mind.

In order to more firmly consolidate the might of our singlehearted revolutionary ranks, the entire party members and working people should have firm faith and will to accomplish the socialist cause.

The entire party members, working people and People's Army soldiers should become staunch fighters who meet all difficulties in the indomitable spirit of attack, always full of conviction of certin victory and optimism, and become fortresses and shields which defend the socialism of our own style.

Arm With Independence

SK2501062993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 25 Jan 93

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for Arming People With Consciousness of Independence"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 25 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in his classical work "On the Fundamental Questions of Revolutionary Party Building" expounds that the greatest love for the people is to equip them with the consciousness of independence.

NODONG SINMUN Sunday carries an article in this regard.

The article quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"The greatest love for the people is to equip them with the consciousness of independence and awaken them ideologically, and the most serious crime against the people is to paralyze their consciousness of independence and degenerate them ideologically. The responsible education of the popular masses by a party is an expression of its boundless love for them."

Dr. Yi Chong-ho in an article headlined "The Greatest Love for the People Is To Equip Them With the Consciousness of Independence" writes:

Arming the people with the consciousness of independence helps them possess the precious life and quality befitting independent people and shape their destinies brilliantly and provides them with genuine freedom and happiness.

The article continues:

Only a people equipped with the consciousness of independence can brilliantly carve out the destinies, smash the anti-socialist campaign of the imperialists and firmly defend and add shine to socialism. On the contrary, when the people's consciousness of independence is paralyzed and they are degenerated ideologically, socialism falls ill and then socialism is destroyed and the people are reduced to imperialists' colonial slaves.

As our party has always strengthened the driving force of socialism by equipping the people with the consciousness of independence, it has triumphantly advanced the cause of socialism without the slightest deviation in the grim storm of the revolution and successfully shaped the destinies and future of our people.

The idea that equipping the people with the consciousness of independence is the greatest love for them, the article stresses, is the valuable summing up of the history of noble love in which the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song founded the chuche idea and has equipped the people with the idea and thus shown the greatest love for them.

Espouses 'National Independence'

SK2501091393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0012 GMT 25 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 25 January special article: "The Principle of National Independence is the Basic Principle of National Reunification"]

[Text] In his New Year's address of this year the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song declared the ideology that the principle of national independence becomes the basic principle in solving the country's reunification question.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The principle of national independence is the basic principle of national reunification which cannot be compromised.

As taught by the great leader, the principle of national independence is the basic principle of national reunification which cannot be compromised. It is related to the fact that the principle of national independence is a most just principle stemmed from the inherent nature of the question of national reunification. The question of the reunification our country is essentially the question of regaining the territory and the nation divested of foreign forces and of achieving national independence on a nation-wide scale.

Our people's struggle for national reunification is precisely the struggle to bring an end to foreign forces' domination and, thus, to achieve national independence. The reunification that our nation wants is the reunification to achieve national independence, not the reunification to live, being subordinated to others. If we had wanted to live, being subordinated to others, we would not have needed to take the trouble of waging the protracted and arduous struggle for national liberation nor we would have needed to take the trouble of struggling against foreign forces' aggression and intervention until today since the country was liberated.

The principle of national independence constitutes the starting point in the struggle for national reunification, the essential content of which is to achieve national independence on a nation-wide scale. The principle of national independence being the basic principle of national reunification is also related to the fact that it is a most scientific and correct principle based on the correct elucidation of the main force of national reunification.

As in all social movements, there is also the main force in the struggle for national reunification. The main force of national reunification means those people in charge of actively waging and pushing ahead with the movement for national reunification. The movement for national reunification is a movement by the main force to realize the demands of those people in charge of waging and pushing ahead with the movement for national reunification, that is, the main force of national reunification. The main force of the movement for national reunification is precisely all of the Korean nation.

It is precisely our nation who urgently wants the country's reunification, and the strength capable of achieving the country's reunification, as well, lies in our nation. The struggle for national reunification is the struggle by the main force of our nation to achieve our nation's independence. The cause of national reunification is the cause that our nation should solve by itself. Therefore, to successfully solve the question of the country's reunification it is imperative to adhere to the principle of safeguarding our nation's independent demands and interests, that is, the principle of solving with our nation's own strength all problems arising in achieving the reunification cause.

The principle of national independence being the basic principle of national reunification is also related to the fact that it is a most realistic and reasonable principle which makes it possible to successfully solve the question of the country's reunification in conformity with the trend of the present times and the internal situation of the nation.

The present era is the era of independence. The progressive countries, the nations, and the revolutionary people of the world are demanding independence and vigorously advancing along the road of independence while opposing all sorts of foreign forces' domination and intervention. This has become an irresistible trend of the times. Clinging to foreign forces and imitating other countries in solving the question of the country's reunification while disregarding such a trend of the times is nothing but an anachronistic delusion.

The situation on the Korean peninsula, as well, is firmly directing toward achieving national reunification and, thus, realizing national independence. In particular, the adoption and effectuation of the historic agreement—in which, based on national reconciliation and unity, the North and the South promised to achieve national reunification with the strength of the main force of the nation has constituted the arrangement of a firm guarantee which makes it possible to solve our reunification question under the principle of national independence.

To successfully realize the cause of national reunification in conformity with the present era's trend of vigorously advancing along the road of independence and with the changed situation of the Korean peninsula it is imperative to adhere to the principle of national independence—which is the principle of safeguarding and realizing the nation's independence—without fail.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's ideology that the principle of national independence is the basic principle of national reunification has brilliantly embodied not only the principle of the immortal chuche idea that the master of one's destiny is oneself and that the strength of pioneering one's destiny, as well, lies in oneself, but also the chuche-oriented view on the nation that national independence should be safeguarded and the nation's common prosperity should be achieved through the nation's united strength, viewing independence as the life of the nation.

Also reflected in this are the respected and beloved leader's fervent patriotic and nation-loving spirit and firm will to eliminate with our nation's own strength all obstacles and barriers lying on the road of national reunification, trusting our nation's strength, to achieve without fail the cause of national reunification in conformity with the independent demands and interests of all of our nation, and, thus, to bestow a reunified fatherland upon all of our fellow countrymen.

Under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song our party and the government of the Republic have consistently waged the struggle to achieve national reunification under the principle of national independence. The principle of national independence has been thoroughly embodied in all principles, policies, and reasonable ways for national reunification that our party and the Government of the Republic have put forward.

Thanks to the patient struggle of our party and the Government of the Republic to solve the question of the country's reunification under the principle of national independence, it was possible that the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity were presented. The movement for national reunification for the past 20 years after the principles were presented has constantly expanded and developed on a nation-wide scale. On this course, North-South dialogue was developed into a high stage, and, consequently, it was possible to achieve an epoch-making progress of adopting and effectuating the North-South agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange and the joint declaration of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula in the North-South dialogue.

Thanks to the consistent struggle of all Korean compatriots in the North and the South and overseas to solve the question of the country's reunification under the principle of national independence, the movement of national reunification is now vigorously advancing along the track of independence.

Today, at a time when all the nation has been able to look ahead at reunification in the near future with hope and expectation, the South Korean authorities are advancing along the road of resuming the provocative Team Spirit joint military exercise while obstructing the implementation of the North-South agreement under various unwarranted pretexts. This is an antinational act of refusing the principle of independent national reunification and of realizing their insidious aims relying on foreign forces' strength.

Talking about dialogue and reunification while refusing the principle of national independence is a mockery to the nation and is intolerable.

The South Korean authorities should thoroughly root out the ideology of relying on foreign forces and return to the stand of national independence. They should not rely on foreign forces, the ringleader of national division, but should make efforts to solve the reunification question through the nation's independent efforts.

End Colonial Domination of South

SK2401091993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0838 GMT 24 Jan 93

["'Civilian Government' Advertised by Dictatorial Party Does Not Make Sense"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 24 (KCNA)—The "Democratic Liberal Party" (DLP) of South Korea lets no chance pass by without mentioning "civilian government," "building of a new Korea" and "change." NODONG SINMUN today brands this as a clumsy ruse to lull the anti-"DLP," anti-"government" sentiments and "ensure a smooth transfer of the government."

The news analyst says:

The "DLP" is a heinous fascist political party which has turned South Korea into a pandemonium of fascism and a graveyard of democracy and civil rights and a group of vicious flunkeyists and traitors to the nation who are prolonging their days in return for selling the interests of the country and the nation to outside forces.

The dictatorial party called "DLP" was fabricated by the United States in the back room of "Chongwadae" on January 22, 1990 by grafting the conservative opposition parties "Reunification Democratic Party" and "New Democratic Republican Party" to the military fascist group of the "Democratic Justice Party."

Most of the important posts of the "DLP" are occupied by the "DJP" faction which has the last say on everything in the party.

Judging from facts, everyone can guess that even if a civilian assumes authority, he cannot but speak for the military fascist group, the backbone of the "DLP," and the "civilian government" will remain only in name.

If a genuine "civilian government" is to be established in South Korea, the U.S. occupation of South Korea backing the military fascist dictatorship must be terminated, the "National Security Law" and other fascist laws be scrapped and the "Security Planning Board," the "secret affairs command" and other machines for dictatorship be disbanded.

Even if a civilian becomes "president" with the framework of military fascism left intact, the quality and nature of the "government" will not change.

If the "DLP" is willing to pursue "civilian politics," it must make a commitment to the termination of the U.S. colonial domination of South Korea and the present military fascist dictatorship and put it into practice as soon as a new "government" is inaugurated.

Urges Increased Steel Production

SK2401123793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0010 GMT 23 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 23 January editorial: "Let Us Further Increase the Production of Steel Products"]

[Text] The metal industry is one of the main links that we should concentrate our efforts on in this year's economic construction. The functionaries and working people should wage an even more vigorous struggle to increase their production in upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address. By doing so, they can bring about a great upturn in the production of steel products.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: Producing steel products in abundant quantities is the basic link for enhancing the country's economy of the people as a whole.

The metal industry is one of the sectors that our party always regards as important for rapidly developing the people's economy. We should help the metal industry and increase the production of steel products and nonferrous metals so that we can rapidly develop all sectors of the people's economy, including the machine industry. We should further enhance the people's standard of living.

Today our people have the heavy tasks of upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address and of vigorously accelerating the socialist economic construction so as to further strengthen the economy's self-reliant base, and to rapidly improve the people's material and cultural lives. To carry out these honorable tasks brilliantly, we should emphasize the metal industry as well as the coal and power industry. We should bring forth a great upturn in the production of steel products and various kinds of nonferrous metals.

Since the rewarding struggle for the new year is vigorously being waged, more steel products are now required by all battle sites. All functionaries and working people of the metal industrial sector should be well aware that only when we bring about innovation in the production of steel products, can we more highly display the might of our self-reliant economic might. They should be aware that only when the working class of this sector brings about an upsurge, can the spirit of innovation overflow throughout the country. With this in mind, they should now push vigorously ahead at the front of the rewarding grand march.

If the functionaries and working class of the metal industrial sector highly display the same passionate loyalty and spirit as they displayed in upholding the party's leadership by increasing steel production during the period of the Chollima upsurge, then it will be an important guarantee for bringing about an upswing in the production of steel products. It was the working class of the metal industrial sector that initiated the revolutionary upsurge in the postwar period with the Kangson and Chollima spirit, upholding the party's call for increased production and saving.

In those days, the functionaries and working class of the metal industrial sector fortified themselves in response to the party's call to bring about a great upswing in the production of steel products, thereby filling the whole country with the spirit of the Chollima upsurge. If we fortify ourselves and struggle with the same spirit as we displayed during the postwar Chollima upsurge, we will be able to bring about a greater upswing in the production of steel products with today's advantageous conditions.

All functionaries and working people of the metal industrial sector should continue their vigorous struggle to increase the production of steel products, cherishing deep in their hearts the honor and pride of having added luster to the history of our country's socialist construction. They did this with their revolutionary upsurge and upheld the party's leadership by increasing steel production.

Effectively utilizing the existing base of the metal industrial foundation is an important qualification for normalizing the metal goods production at a high level. Today our metal industrial base is very strong, and its production potential is truly great. If we add the maximum level of luster to this production potential, we can further increase the production of metal products.

The metal industrial sector should thoroughly establish with the help of the producing masses the facilities management system. It should maintain, check, and repair metal furnaces and their accessory facilities every day based on a thorough understanding of the facilities so that the facilities can be operated at full capacity.

The producing masses are the masters of the facilities directly charged with facility management. All the producers of the metal industrial sector should care for, love, and be well-versed in the facilities—with the great insight of masters. They should thoroughly abide by the technological, manual, and standard regulations of operation when using and managing the facilities.

The Kimchaek Steel Complex and the Musan Mining Complex shoulder heavy responsibility in producing steel products. Whether these complexes normalize the production at a high level or not greatly influences the results of the production of steel products.

Various party organizations and functionaries of the Kimchaek Steel Complex should attach great importance to normalizing steel production at a high lever and should carry on organizational and political work for it.

The Musan Mining Complex should properly manage picking facilities that the party sent and fully operate them so as to highly increase production of steel ore. The complex should also properly mend and repair large vehicles to increase the coefficient of utilization of them.

Steel plants and refineries should continue to vigorously introduce the new method of steel production with fuel which is produced in our country.

Like work in all other sectors, production of steel products can be normalized when relative sectors timely and smoothly supply raw materials, fuel, and facilities.

The coal industry sector should plan and supervise organizational work in accordance with the demand of developing realities and should dig out more coal to actively carry out supply work. It also should give priority to sending coal of good quality to metal plants.

The power industry sector should supply metal plants with enough electric power.

All units and sectors of the people's economy should vigorously carry on collection of iron scraps as a mass movement and send more iron scraps to steel plants and refineries.

The railway transportation sector should responsibly carry coal and iron scraps to steel plants and refineries without delay.

It is important to diversify items and sizes of metal products and to improve their quality. The reality, in which enlarging and modernizing facilities and making them high-speed and precise are vigorously being accelerated, requires steel products and nonferrous metal in various sizes and matter.

The metal industry sector should continuously make great efforts to increase the variety of steel and to develop production of alloyed steel. At the same time, it should diversify items and sizes of rolled steel products and focus great efforts on producing secondary-processed metal products, so that it can smoothly produce and supply steel products and nonferrous metal which are required in diverse ways by various sectors of the people's economy.

The spirit of self-reliance and fortitude is the invincible revolutionary spirit being displayed based on faith in justness of one's cause and certain victory and based on revolutionary optimism.

Various party organizations of the metal industry sector should plan and coordinate political work and man-to-man work among functionaries and working people, so as to help them overcome all difficulties and hardships with faith in certain victory and revolutionary optimism, like the iron-willed fighters of the great Chollima upswing period, and highly display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude with which they fulfill to the end with their own strength the goal of production of steel products assigned by the party.

All functionaries and working people of the metal industry sector are urged to become vanguards in the struggle to create the speed of the nineties by more vigorously carrying out the struggle of producing steel products with existing facilities, existing materials, and existing labor, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address.

KCNA Reviews 26 Jan Pyongyang Press

SK2601060893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today gives much space to an editorial entitled "Singlehearted Unity Is Life and Soul of Korean-style Socialism", which calls upon the entire party members and other working people to demonstrate the dignity of chuche Korea and the might of our socialism by stepping up another general march, upholding the revolutionary slogan "The Party, the people and the Army must all be united in one mind and complete the cause of socialism!" Set forth by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

Carried in the press is a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to President Shankar Dayal Sharma on the day of the Republic of India.

A message of greetings to President Kim Il-song from Burkinabe President and Head of State Blaise Compaore on the new year is printed in NODONG SINMUN.

According to the press, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a wreath to the bier of labour hero, Prof. and Dr. Han Hong-sik, researcher of the Fuel Institute of the Academy of Sciences, and extended thanks to the employees of Potonggang Hotel who have built it up as a model unit in external services and achieved spectacular successes.

NODONG SINMUN carries a new year message of greetings to Comrade Kim Chong-il from Eric Trevett, general secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the new Communist Party of Great Britain.

Dailies report that relay groups of the young vanguards have started from different parts of the country to convey letters of loyal pledge to President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il before the eighth congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea.

NODONG SINMUN edits repercussions of Comrade Kim Chong-il's classical work "the historical lesson in building socialism and the general line of our party" upon foreign political and public figures.

The daily in an article says that Comrade Kim Chong-il has led the leading officials to live and work in an indomitable revolutionary spirit in order to dynamically push ahead with the socialist economic construction.

Given in the press are economic briefs introducing successes made by different domains of the national economy in carrying out the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

NODONG SINMUN introduces a new building of the Kim Chaek University of technology, a comprehensive centre of the country for training scientists and technicians.

Seen in the press are an account of the funeral of the late Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, held as a state funeral and a funeral address of vice-president Yi Chong-ok.

The press gives an account of a contact between chairmen of the two sides of the North-South joint nuclear control committee.

NODONG SINMUN rounds up voices of South Korean people and overseas compatriots calling for reunifying the country in a peaceful way on the principle of national independence.

The daily reports that a signature campaign denouncing the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises was held in Switzerland and foreign public figures sent letters to Yim Su-kyong as regards her release on parole, praising her patriotic deed.

The daily comes out with an article exposing a false advertisement about "civilian politics" in South Korea and a commentary condemning the move to increase police forces there.

Under the title "A Utopia Unimaginable in the West is in Korea" the daily carries an interview of Arom Meechai, executive member of the democratic federation of Thailand, with a KCNA reporter.

The press observes the day of the Republic of India.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the Jordanian king outlined the way of solution of the Middle East problem, the Namibian president declared that African countries should not be subjected to the West in the economy and the Kenyan president called for developing friendly relations with neighbouring countries.

It is reported in the press that a joint meeting of heads of state and government of the Commonwealth of Independent States was held and the Angolan Government expressed readiness to hold talks with the anti-government forces.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary hitting out at the schemes to dispatch Japanese Army overseas and an article proving that the utterances that Japan "will not become a military power" are a sheer lie.

"U.S. 'Defense Report' and Plan for World Domination" is the title of an article of MINJU CHOSON.

KCNA on 25 Jan NODONG SINMUN

SK2501054893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0515 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song visited the bier of the late Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party (KSDP), and expressed deep condolences over his death.

Figuring large in the paper are an obituary of KSDP chairman Yi Kye-paek, a report about the formation of the State Funeral Committee and news that party and government senior officials visited the bier of the deceased and expressed deep condolences.

The New Year address of President Kim Il-song was reported in various countries, says the paper.

According to the paper, a Japanese public figure published a travelnote on Korea under the headline "We Think of the Great President Kim Il-song".

The paper says that works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were disseminated and studied in various countries.

The paper informs the readers that Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the officials of the Institute of Sericulture under the Academy of Agricultural Science who developed a new disinfectent against silkworm disease.

South Korean people are boundlessly longing for the northern half of Korea as a beacon of hope, says the paper.

The paper rounds up voices of South Korean people and foreign public circles expressing support to the DPRK's proposal for reunification through confederacy.

Econews of the paper includes reports about the preparations for new year's farming in the rural communities across the country and about an upsurge in the production of coal.

An article of the paper lays stress on strengthening scientific and technological administration in order to rapidly develop the sciences and technology of the country.

Under the title "Heroic Soldiers Who Did Not Hesitate To Devote Youth and Lives", the paper devotes much space to introducing officer of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Yun Hyong-kwon, 26, and non-commissioned officer of the KPA Sin Song-ho 25, who laid down their lives to save drowning school children from death.

The paper runs a commentary denouncing the recent outcries of the South Korean authorities that they would further strengthen the cooperative system with a new U.S. Administation to "check the nuclear dvelopment of the North" and "promote the North-South dialogue".

It is is reported in the paper that MINJOK SIBO, newspaper of overseas Koreas, carried an article titled "Security Planning Board Obstructs North-South dialogue" and the Canadian regional headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) vowed to struggle for great national unity.

"Principle of National Independence is Fundamental Principle of National Reunification" is the title of an article of the paper.

The paper carries news about celebrations of the Lunar New Year's Day in China and achievements of the Cuban working people in socialist economic construction and an account of a memorial service held in Moscow on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of death of Lenin. The paper comes out with an article exposing that the U.S. imperialist used chemical and biological weapons in wanton violation of the international law during the past Korean war.

The paper analyses the recent situation of Iraq.

KCNA on 23 Jan Pyongyang Press

SK2301053993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0510 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 23 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, in reply to the latter's message of solidarity supporting the policy of national reunification clarified by him in his New Year address.

Papers report that the great leader President Kim Il-song sent new year messages to foreign heads of state.

It is reported in the press that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to those who have contributed to enhancing the level of automation and modernisation of production processes at the Hwanghae iron and steel complex. Given in the press is an account of a meeting held on the lapse of 20 years since he instructed that the complex was made a model unit of automation.

Classical works of Comrade Kim Chong-il were disseminated and studied in different countries, says NODONG SINMUN.

The daily deals with deep trust and love shown by Comrade Kim Chong-il for the late movie director Chon Sang-in.

The press reports about innovations effected in the fields of coal industry and forestry and brisk farm preparations on co-op farms.

Papers inform the readers of the release of the documentary film "Following Example of Chong Chun-sil".

Seen in the press is news that the Botswanan ambassador presented his credentials to Vice-president Yi Chong-ok and the Mozambican president met the DPRK ambassador.

Appearing in the press is an Information No. 619 issued by the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland denouncing the large-scale war exercises staged by the United States and the South Korean authorities without let-up.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that many progressive popular songs are being created and disseminated in South Korea and labour union organisations there rejected a new exploiting method of the authorities.

The press informs the readers that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets committed an air war exercise against the North.

Broad political and public circles of the world strongly demanded the cancellation of the decision of the United States and the South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and Bangladeshi and Egyptian figures made public statements supporting the DPRK's policy of national reunification, according to NODONG SINMUN.

The daily comes out with an article headlined " 'Team Spirit' Joint War Exercises Are a Nuclear Attack Rehearsal Against North".

According to the daily, Japanese figures published statements hitting out at the Japanese Government authority for slandering the DPRK as regards the plutonium transport. The daily in an article deals with Japan's dangerous design to become a military power.

The U.N. secretary general urged the return of Palestinians and the Tanzanian president outlined the nation's economic development, reports the press.

NODONG SINMUN introduces economic successes in India, Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Thailand, Jordan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Bahrain.

Further Reportage on Yi Kye-paek Funeral

Yi Chong-ok, Others Attend

SK2601083393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] The funeral of the late Mr. Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, was solemnly held as a state funeral in Pyongyang on 25 January.

On this day, the place where the funeral was held was wrapped up in sorrow over the loss of the patriotic political activist who up until the last days of his life was loyal to the great leader President Kim Il-song. Also, under the wise leadership of the respected and beloved leader, he struggled by devoting all of his energy to carry out the patriotic works of the General Association of Koreans Residing in Japan [Chongnyon] for the democratic national rights of the fellow countrymen residing in Japan, and for the fatherland's grandeur and prosperity and the country's independent and peaceful reunification.

Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the Administration Council, and foreign minister; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; Comrade Kim Yong-sun, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council; Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party; other functionaries concerned; and Chongnyon functionaries staying in the socialist fatherland, participated in the funeral with the bereaved family members of the deceased.

Honor guards of the KPA stood in line beside the bier. Before carrying out the bier for burial, the family members of the deceased and members of the state funeral committee expressed condolences before the bier of the late Chairman Yi Kye-paek.

At 1000, amid the sounding of the music of condolence, the bier of the deceased was carried out for burial. The car carrying the bier left for the burial ground. The streets of the capital where the funeral car passed by was wrapped up in sorrow over the loss of Chairman Yi Kye-paek. The cars passing by the city and workers, youth, and students walking along the streets stopped and expressed deep condolences, sending off the funeral car amid sorrow.

The funeral car arrived at the cemetery of patriotic martyrs on the suburbs of Pyongyang. Honor guards of the KPA were standing in front of the cemetery of patriotic martyrs. The funeral ceremony was solemnly carried out on spot.

After playing the music of the national anthem, Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president, gave a consolatory address. The music of condolence was sorrowfully played and amid the sounding of volley for the dead, the bier of the deceased was laid down in the graveyard.

Cadres of the party and government and the family members of the deceased covered the grave with soil. While the music to dedicate wreaths were being played, wreaths were laid on the grave. Participants of the funeral gave a silent prayer in memory of the deceased.

Even though Chairman Yi Kye-paek has passed away his achievements left before the fatherland and nation will live forever.

Diplomats Visit Bier

SK2601035593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] On the occasion of the death of Mr. Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Korean Social Democratic Party Central Committee, many countries' diplomatic representatives to our country visited the bier at the Sojang clubhouse and paid their respects.

Members of the State Funeral Committee, and the bereaved family and relatives of the deceased stood beside the bier.

The honor guard of the Korean People's Army stood in line beside the bier.

Amid the playing of a dirge, diplomatic representatives laid at the bier a wreath on behalf of the diplomats. They paid a silent tribute to the deceased.

Central Committee Names Ambassadors to Yemen, Bangladesh

SK2001050093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 20 (KCNA)—Chu Wang-chol and Chang Won-sik were appointed respectively as ambassadors e.p. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to Yemen and Bangladesh, according to decrees of the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

KCNA Views South Envoy's Remarks on Rice Market

SK1901234993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2233 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 19 (KCNA)—Foolish remarks of the South Korean "ambassador" in Geneva that it is inevitable to open rice market are still touching off the resentment of farmers and fishermen's organization in South Korea.

The national council of farmers and fishermen's organizations consisting of ten organizations of farmers and fishermen including the national association of agro-technicians in a statement denounced his remarks as an act of casting a chill over the firm will of 6 million farmers and majority of the people against rice market opening.

Those organizations urged the authorities to make all efforts to defend rice market at the Uruguay round. Meanwhile, the council of farmer and fisherman successors and other organizations made public similar statements and demanded the authorities to dismiss the ambassador.

New Apparatus Effective in Treatment of Diseases

SK2601054793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 25 (KCNA)—A new apparatus which is very effective in the treatment of incurable diseases has been devised in Korea, setting off a stir in the medical domain.

This negative pressure apparatus gives the cupping effect on the whole body through the application of the method of cupping pots traditionally applied in Korea on different regions of the body.

This apparatus proves particularly efficacious in the treatment of ideopathic necrosis, sequelae of cerebal contusion, rheumatic arthritis, neuralgia, neurathenia, chronic hepatitis, gastritis, hyperpiesia, arteriosclerosis, stenocardia and diseases after childbirth.

A patient who had got ten injections of morphine every day because of weak pulses and acute pains on his legs and arms from a vascular disease completely recovered his health with the help of this apparatus, all the pains gone, three months after he was carried to a hospital.

A patient who had long suffered from brochial asthma had his disease cured in one month by it. A student who could not study properly due to sequelae of cerebal contusion got rid of them in 20 days and graduated from the university with excellent marks.

Public attention is drawn to this negative pressure apparatus which has cured many patients without causing an accident, but showing a curative rate of over 80 percent since it was completed in 1990. Very simple in mechanism, the apparatus can be made by any hospital and be easily handled by anyone.

It brings neither by-effect nor casual symptom nor burden to the patients. And no supplementary drugs are needed.

Besides, the curative effect is very quick. Some diseases are cured by a single application and rather serious cases in ten days.

The appliance was devised by Doctor Choe Song-mun.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Shipbuilding Complex Employees

SK2001102393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 20 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to officials, workers and technicians of the Nampo shipbuilding complex and the three revolution team members dispatched there who had successfully built the 6,000-ton class floating dock "Hoeryong June 23".

The dock can be filled with and emptied of 10,000 cubic meters of water and can lift ships up to 14,000-ton class.

He also sent thanks to the ministry of the shipbuilding industry and the materials supply company of the ministry.

The units successfully did economic organisational work, technical guidance and materials supply to build in a short period the large cargo-passenger ship "Mangyongbong-92", the passenger ship "Chong-il Bong Sonyon" and the floating dock of 6,000-ton class, tug boats and barges at the Hambuk shipbuilding complex, the Nampo shipbuilding complex and the Wonsan shipbuilding yard.

South Korea

DPRK Reportedly Aids Iranian Nuclear Project

SK2601013493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0104 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Berlin, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—North Korea is helping Iran develop nuclear missiles and may be training Iranian pilots to fly nuclear bombers, the German weekly FOCUS reported Monday.

Iran has two nuclear warheads, both of 40 kilotons or twice as powerful as the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, and a nuclear bomb and a nuclear shell, FOCUS said. Iran was eager to produce medium-range missiles to deliver nuclear warheads with the aid of North Korea and China, FOCUS said.

Iranian pilots trained in Wonsan, North Korea, were assigned to an air base not far from Tehran, it said, adding that Iran's nuclear bomb is stored at the base. It said that the bomb can be dropped by a MiG-27.

Iran's Scud missile can deliver the warheads to Israel and the bomb was probably intended for the eastern part of the Arabian peninsula or for U.S. aircraft carriers operating in the Persian gulf, FOCUS said.

Iran assembled its nuclear devices using parts imported from former Soviet republics such as Kazakhstan and Tajikistan in Central Asia, and a German company had helped the missile development project by supplying guidance equipment, FOCUS said.

'Secret' Document: PRC Leaning Toward ROK

SK2601055293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0542 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—A new strategic relationship was formed in Northeast Asia by South Korea, China, the United States, Japan and Russia after Seoul and Beijing normalized relations last year, a Japanese newspaper quoted a secret Chinese document as saying Tuesday.

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN, in a Beijing-datelined story, said the document said that Seoul-Beijing diplomatic normalization had removed the possibility that the United States and Japan would check China by taking advantage of South and North Korean problems.

It is the first glimpse of China's evaluation of Korea since the diplomatic knot was tied in August last year, the paper said.

"South Korea has become an important country in Asia," the document was quoted as saying. YOMIURI said China, a long-time ally of North Korea, was showing an inclination to South Korea by giving South Korea's diplomatic power a high rating.

The classified document, titled "a year in which Korea's diplomacy showed unprecedented briskness," was edited by the state-run XINHUA News Agency for senior government officials, YOMIURI said.

Seoul-Beijing diplomatic normalization was in the interest of both peoples and enabled South Korea to escape the influence of the United States and Japan, the document said.

It became impossible for the United States and Japan to check China with inter-Korean issues when South Korea and China set up diplomatic relations, it said.

This created a five-way strategic relationship among South Korea, China, the United States, Japan and Russia, paving the way for easing of tension and stability on the Korean peninsula.

The document said economic cooperation was increasing, trade reached 10 billion U.S. dollars last year and Korean investment in China was rising sharply.

Russia, DPRK Reportedly To Discuss Accord

SK2601095493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0946 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—Russia is set to discuss with North Korea the question of changing a bilateral military alliance agreement in Pyongyang toward the end of this month.

The KYODO News Service of Japan reported in dispatches from Beijing and Moscow Tuesday that Russian Vice Foreign Minister George Kunadze would visit North Korea on Jan. 29-Feb. 1 to discuss a change in an agreement on military cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement is in the form of a clause of the "Treaty on North Korea-Russia Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance" signed in 1961 between the former Soviet Union and North Korea.

Quoting a Western source in Pyongyang, KYODO's dispatch from Beijing said Kunadze would seek to change the military-alliance clause based on the remarks made by Russian President Boris Yeltsin during his visit to South Korea last November.

In Seoul Yeltsin disclosed the intent of repealing the military-related clause by saying "the clause is not proper in view of the current international situation."

The clause provides for Russia's automatic intervention in the event North Korea gets involved in a war.

Another dispatch from Moscow quoted a Russian Foreign Ministry official as saying, "Vice Minister Kunadze will visit Pyongyang toward the close of this month as a special emissary of President Yeltsin."

The official reportedly said Kunadze's visit will be to prepare for the conclusion of a new agreement with North Korea.

KYODO said it is likely that if Kunadze's mission in Pyongyang would succeed, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev would visit North Korea in person to sign a new agreement.

Government Asks Russia, China To Observe Exercise

SK2601033893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States will conduct their annual "Team Spirit" military exercise for 10 days from mid-March, the Korean defense ministry announced Tuesday.

The drill was not held last year due to a nonnuclearization pact between South and North Korea.

Seoul and Washington affirmed at the 24th Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) last year that they would start preparations for the exercise unless there were improvements in inter-Korean relations, in particular in mutual nuclear inspections, ministry spokesman Pak Chae-sik said.

"So far, we have called for North Korea to immediately accept mutual inspections, but it has admantly refused," he observed. "Therefore, South Korea and the United States have decided to renew the drill."

The 17th Team Spirit is to draw scaled-down U.S. participation, including one aircraft carrier battle group and Patriot anti-missile batteries.

It would be 10 percent smaller than the exercise in 1991 in terms of troops and equipment, Pak said.

A ministry source said that this year's drill would feature a command post exercise for the first time, and a simulated mapping operation using computers. It was previously only field training.

The ministry has invited the neutral nations supervisory commission as well as North Korea, Russia and China to send observers to confirm that the annual exercise is purely defensive.

The Foreign Ministry explained to Chinese ambassador Zhang Tingyan and Russian ambassador Alexander Panov on Monday about the resumption of the drill and asked them to send official observers. The envoys replied they would convey the invitation to their governments.

The Korean Government has invited six nations of the ceasefire agreement, including North Korea and China, since 1982, and it has invited Russia since 1991, when the two countries established diplomatic ties.

'Hardliner' DPRK Chief of Bureau Replaced

SK2601115493 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Kim Yong-sun, 58, secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] in charge of international affairs, suddenly replaced Yun Ki-pok, 67, WPK secretary and vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Fatherland, to head North Korea's South Korean affairs bureau, it has been learned today.

Whereas Yun Ki-pok was a hardliner who implemented a hawkish policy toward the South designed to communize the South, Kim Yong-sun is a man of diplomatic expertise who has played a key role in the North Korean diplomacy toward the United States and Japan. The replacement of North Korea's southward operations post, therefore, may suggest a fundamental change in North Korean policy toward the South and foreign countries, arousing our curiosity as to what course of policy North Korea will take in the future.

According to the information released by the authorities concerned on 26 January, North Korea took personnel actions on major cadres in the plenary meeting of the WPK Central Committee last December, and appointed

Yun Ki-pok as party secretary for educational and cultural affairs, relieving him from the post of party secretary in charge of southward operations. Yun Ki-pok directed North-South dialogue in this post until recently. This post has now been replaced by Kim Yong-sun who concurrently serves as director of the party Central Committee's International Department and party secretary in charge of international affairs.

Kim Yong-sun is Kim Chong-il's relative and close aide and enjoys the high confidence of Kim Il-song and his son. Kim Yong-sun is expected to take charge of the international and southward affairs as a whole. On 14 January, Yun Ki-pok attended the meeting to mark the 65th anniversary of the founding of "SAENAL," the paper published during Kim Il-song's revolutionary struggle, and made a commemorative report. His recent attendance at educational and cultural events proves that the job description of his post has changed.

The information about Yun Ki-pok's replacement reached the government departments concerned a month ago, and this information has been confirmed recently by a third country which maintains close relations with North Korea.

North Korea, in Kim Il-song's New Year's address, called on the countries concerned to cooperate for the solution of the inter-Korean question. North Korea suddenly changed the man in charge of its South Korean affairs in an apparent attempt to positively cope with the improvement of relations with the United States and Japan by appointing Kim Yong-sun to this post and to carry on a multilateral consultative system since North Korea thinks it needs cooperation of the countries concerned to resolve the issue of reunification.

Foreign Ministry Announces Overseas Mission Changes

SK2601093093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0859 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry announced new rearrangement of overseas missions Tuesday including installation of resident embassy in Kazakhstan and consul-general in Shanghai.

The rearrangements, approved by the cabinet Jan. 21, upgrades liaison office in Hanoi to official embassy following the Dec. 22 diplomatic normalization.

The Korean embassy in Prague will handle both Czech and Slovak following their division as of Jan. 1 this year. The mission in Austria will be in charge of Slovenia while the one in Hungary will handle affairs in Croatia.

The new Korean embassy in Kazakhstan will take over matters of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

New International Economic Affairs Envoy Appointed

SK2601092993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0857 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry named former mission chief to Czech [Republic] Son Chon-yong as ambassador for international economic affairs Tuesday as part of efforts to strengthening South Korea's trade diplomacy.

Son will oversee joint economic consultations with other countries and represent Korea at major international meetings such as the U.N. Second Committee on Economic Affairs and Uruguay Round negotiations.

"My chief task will be preparing South Korea to join ranks with advanced nations by the year 2000," he said upon appointment.

The ambassador has held almost all economic affairs posts in the ministry since he entered foreign service in 1963. A graduate of Seoul National University Law School, he served as the minister to Brazil and Geneva, economic minister to Washington and director general for both international trade and international economic affairs bureaus. He retured to Seoul last month from Czech [Republic].

DPRK Reportedly Seeks Border Tours Resumption

SK2201011493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0642 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Hong Kong, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—North Korea may reopen areas along the Tumen River to tourists, the Chinese-language daily the MINGBAO reported Thursday. North Korea closed the region last year after South Korea and China normalized ties in August.

The MINGBAO, in a dispatch from the city of Tumen in China's jilin Province, said that North Korea had proposed to Russia and China that they increase tourism. Tumen Mayor Huang Chunguang was quoted as saying that North Korea had operated tours with China until normalization between Seoul and Beijing, but would resume one- or two-day tours this year.

North Korea recently expressed its intention to China to renew the joint venture and had proposed adding an eight-day tour including Pyongyang and a five-day tour of Tumen, Najin (North Korea) and Vladivostok (Russia), the mayor said. The proposals were under study, he said, adding that China was particularly considering tourists from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

The North Korean tours, mostly one or two days, attracted an estimated 2,000 tourists, mostly Chinese, a month last year. The one-day tour of Tumen and Onsong cost 230 yuan (around 38 U.S. dollars), and the two-day tour cost 420 yuan.

Talks With French Official Set for 1 Feb

SK2101083493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0549 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministries of South Korea and France will hold political consultations on Feb. 1 in Seoul.

They will discuss ways of strengthening relations and exchange views on the Korean peninsula and the European Community.

Vice Foreign Minister No Chang-hui will lead the Korean delegation and Serge Boidevaix, his counterpart, will head the French side.

Agency Targets Funds for Overseas Cooperation Projects

SK2301041093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0138 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), an umbrella organization under the Foreign Ministry, set aside 26.5 billion won this year for cooperation projects with other countries, agency officials said Saturday [23 January]. The amount is a 12 percent increase from last year and will be distributed among over 100 countries and international organizations.

Approximately 10.4 billion won will go to economic projects, emergency relief and other donations of daily necessities and 2.3 billion won to development feasibility studies in countries like Vietnam and the Philippines, the officials said. The budget covers invitation of more than 500 foreign technical trainees from 77 countries and dispatch of 80 Korean technicians overseas to 57 nations.

Youth volunteers and medical aides will go to African countries to provide their services with the KOICA assistance as well, the officials said.

Seoul To Host International Environmental Meeting

SK2501033993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0057 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 25 (YONHAP)—South Korea, Japan, China, Russia and Mongolia will discuss environmental cooperation in Seoul on Feb. 8-11, officials said Monday. The meeting opens with bright prospects since the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), host of the conference, says it is willing to provide money for regional projects agreed on by the participants, they said.

The conference of working-level officials will seek specific plans for cooperation in Northeast Asia, where China is often accused of being the biggest polluter. All of the participating countries, including Japan, which is able to provide advanced environmental technology, have a deep interest in regional cooperation, and chances are high that they will adopt action plans in Seoul, one official said. Discussion will be based on reports to the earth summit in Brazil last June and cover finances, establishment of a secretariat and institutionalization of cooperation. The next meeting will be in June in Bangkok. Cho Won-il, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's International Trade Bureau, will represent Korea in Seoul.

Aid of Neighboring Powers Sought on Nuclear Issue

SK2001061493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0555 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea will seek to solve the problem of North Korea's nuclear arms development with help from the four neighboring powers, the Foreign Ministry reported to President No Tae-u Wednesday.

The ministry said it would step up the Seoul-Washington alliance, consolidate Korea's friendship with Japan, substantiate good-neighborly relations with China and Russia, and try to solve the nuclear question with their help.

The government will also deal with the issue of multilateral security cooperation in Northeast Asia within the current system propped up by the Korea-U.S. and U.S.-Japan defense pacts.

Neighbors' Concerns Not To Alter Japan's Nuclear Policy

SK2101075593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0714 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—Japan is aware of regional concerns, but will not allow them to alter its nuclear policy, a senior Japanese diplomat said Wednesday. Science and Technology Ambassador Takaya Suto told a meeting on Japanese nuclear policy that he knew neighboring countries were worried but that Japan lacked natural resources and felt it had to remain dependent on nuclear energy as long as there was no alternative. The third Korea-Japan nuclear consultative meeting ended Wednesday.

Japan had no reason to possess nuclear weapons and the Japanese people, the first victims of a nuclear bomb, wouldn't tolerate their possession, Suto said. Japan would use atomic energy only for peaceful purposes, Suto said, adding that he hoped Japan's neighbors would believe him.

Japan would acquire 30 tons of plutonium from reprocessing plants abroad and 55 tons from domestic plants, out of 80 to 90 tons it required by the year 2010, he said. The plutonuim couldn't be used for making weapons since its fissionable content was 70 percent, 25 points short of weapons grade, he said.

'Foreign Policy Nightmares' Await Clinton

SK2601044193 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Jan 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Clinton-Yeltsin Summit"]

[Text] Readjustment of relations with Moscow is one of the major challenges confronting the new leader in Washington. The worst foreign policy nightmares of any incoming president since the time of the Vietnam war face Bill Clinton upon his taking office. The crowded list of these problems, which include Iraq, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia, makes it very difficult for him to keep his promise and desire to become a domestically oriented president.

The verbal and tentative agreement reached between U.S. President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin to meet face-to-face sometime in the near future demonstrated that the priority of the U.S. foreign policy agenda is equal to, though not over, focusing on domestic issues, the ailing economy in particular.

Former U.S. President George Bush left immediately after signing the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II in Moscow. The Washington-Moscow relations have been in good shape since the world came out of the East-West collision course with the ending of the cold war. Yet, the sudden crumbling and fractious reorganization of the former Soviet Union amidst overall economic dislocations turned Eastern Europe into a center of new tensions.

An early summit with Clinton to secure increased U.S. support could help reinforce the shaky position of the Russian leader, under heavy fire from conservatives at home who oppose his economic reforms in favor of a free market system. Some analysts are worried that the United States may be courting trouble by exerting too much influence upon developments in Russia, which might provide Clinton with a grave foreign policy crisis. But the new U.S. President cannot afford to look the other way.

Russia is on the brink of political and economic disaster both for itself and its neighbors that constitute the struggling Commonwealth of Independent States. The efforts of the CIS to mend its fences made little headway this week as three of the 10 members refused to put their names to a draft charter at the end of a summit in the Byelarusian capital of Minsk. Most of these former Soviet republics are in a state of misery and instability.

With or without a prompt summit, Russia and its fellow members of the CIS must be kept afloat and aided to continue on the high road to steady reforms. For this crucial task, the strong leadership of Clinton is essential. The so-called New World Order which flashed over the horizon in the wake of the cold war and the Gulf war may prove elusive and short-lived unless President Clinton is able to redeem the faults of his predecessor, who did much but also left as much undone in the sphere of international relations.

Editorial Urges Cooperative U.S. Trade Ties

SK2501004193 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "New Economic Agenda"]

[Text] The inauguration of U.S. President Bill Clinton last week served to sensitize the Korean government, policy makers and analysts to the need for recasting trade relations with Washington to face the new world economic order. The launching of an integrated European market and the search for a regional economic grouping in North America have moved the international economy toward a pattern of borderless interaction.

The change of command in the While House will introduce Clintonomics, although its contents are not yet fully explained. The conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations to improve on the existing GATT arrangement in the near future will bring about a major shake-up of the current world trade system.

These external changes coincide with the transition of Korea to a new government as President-elect Kim Yong-sam takes office in February. Being close trading partners as well as allies, Korea and the United States, both of whom are committed to stirring changes and reforms, must develop and readjust their mutual outlooks and policies.

As long as exports continue to lead the Korean economy, we have to count heavily on the United States and Japan, our two major trading partners. There is no critical trade imbalance between Seoul and Washington, quite different from the disproportionate gains of Japan.

Yet, our bilateral trade ties are occasionally marred by frictions over minor disagreements and technicalities.

These sources of dispute should be reduced and ironed out through open-minded consultation and understanding. Maintenance of communication channels with U.S. administration officials and business interests is most important to that end. In spite of its being the chief target of the U.S. complaint and backlash in regards to trade, Japan has fared much better than Korea in dealing with Washington by virtue of its multitiered pipelines of dialogue with their American counterparts.

The new U.S. government is likely to aggressively urge its partners in Europe, the Pacific Rim and elsewhere to open their markets wider to American goods and services. Mere avoidance and rejection are nothing but passive reactions that would get us nowhere. The incoming government should prepare the nation to meet our problems head on and learn to live with our partners and competitors through reasonable give and take.

The contemporary industrial society imparts to its citizens contradictory illusion about consuming more and enjoying greater welfare benefits while working fewer hours and paying less tax. They demand official leadership and subsidy while wishing for freedom and decontrol. How well we strike a balance between the two will determine the success of the new government.

Government, DLP Agree To Lower Bank Rates 1 Feb

SK2101063993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0540 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—The government and the majority Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] agreed Thursday to lower commercial banks' interest rates and the central bank's [Bank of Korea] rediscount rate by 1-2 percentage points on February 1.

Economic policymakers of the government and the DLP agreed in a meeting at the DLP headquarters building to cut the central bank's rediscount rate by 1-2 points and lower commercial bank's lending and deposit rates by 1.5-2 points and 1-2 points, respectively. The Bank of Korea's rediscount rate will, therefore, be between 5 percent and 6 percent.

The interest rate for one-year fixed deposits will be lowered to 9 percent from 10 percent and the lending rate will be cut by 1.75 point to 10 percent.

At non-banking financial institutions, rates for savings up to three months will be lowered by 2.5 points and rates over three months by 1.5 points. The monetary board still has to approve the cuts.

Finance Ministry To Increase Corporate Bond Floatations

SK2601031493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—Corporate bond floatations will total 16.88 trillion won this year, up 19.7 percent from 1992, Finance Ministry officials said Tuesday. This would raise total outstanding bonds to 45.07 trillion won. The floatations will include 4.5 trillion won in corporate bonds, up 27.1 percent, and 6.6 trillion won in financial bonds, up 23.2 percent, the officials said.

The sizable increase in the corporate and financial bonds is designed to help raise money for the operation of corporates and to facilitate the supply of capital needed for investment in facilities, they said. Of the planned financial bonds, about 1.9 trillion will go to the investment in facilities.

A ministry source said that the projected 19.7 percent increase in the bond floatation is expected to help stabilize market interest rate down to about 12 percent in view of the total money supply increase rate of 13 percent to 17 percent for this year and the economic growth rate of 10 to 11 percent.

52 Foreign Investors Leave ROK

SK2601001993 Seoul YONHAP in English 2359 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—Foreign investors withdrew from South Korea in 52 cases totaling 369 million U.S. dollars in 1992 as business prospects continued to be unstable, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday.

The 1992 figures compared with an annual average withdrawal of foreign investment of 16 cases and 42.5 million dollars, ministry officials said.

The reasons given for the withdrawals include slow business or bad business prospects, 66.7 percent, transfer of management to Koreans, 12.3 percent, and changes in line of business or financial difficulties of their parent companies, they said.

By country, Japan led the group with 20 cases and 22 million dollars, followed by the United States, 16 cases, 277 million dollars, and Europe, 13 cases, 59 million dollars.

Meanwhile, investment by foreigners last year totaled 234 cases worth 894.6 million dollars, down 18.5 percent in cases and down 36 percent in value from the previous year, the officials said.

By types of business, manufacturing was worth 647 million dollars in 81 cases, down from 1,069.2 million dollars in 109 cases in 1991, or off 39.5 percent, and service industry, 245.3 million dollars in 152 cases, down from 325.6 million dollars in 178 cases, or off 24.7 percent, they said.

The number of investments from the United States and Germany rose in 1992 from the previous year, but those from Japan continued to decline. The government is trying to encourage foreign investment by improving investment conditions and simplifying procedures, the officials said.

Samsung Top 1992 Advertising Spender

SK2501063593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0619 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 25 (YONHAP)—Samsung Group spent 113 billion won (143 million U.S. dollars) on advertising last year, 19.3 percent more than a year earlier. This put the South Korean conglomerate far ahead of the Daewoo Group with 85.3 billion won (up 37.1 percent), Lotte with 79.9 billion won (up 25.5 percent) and Lucky-Goldstar with 79.2 billion won (up 10.6 percent).

The Hyundai Group spent 75.1 billion won, a rise of 80 percent from 41.7 billion won a year before because of its indirect support for the United People's Party, whose leader Chong Chu-yong is the founder of Hyundai.

Sunkyong paid 16.7 billion won, up 106.9 percent, because of advertising for the second mobile telecommunications project.

The conglomerates are planning to spend the same or slightly more on advertising this year, reflecting the economic slowdown. The figures cover television, radio, newspaper and magazine ads, but not billboards, posters, promotions, sponsorships and other forms of advertising.

Hyundai Tops 1992 Construction Contract Roster

SK2501061893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0600 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 25 (YONHAP)—Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. signed 1,791 billion won of contracts last year, the most among South Korean construction companies for the second year running, industry sources said Monday. It completed public and private buildings worth 689 billion won and 1,102 billion won, respectively.

Although only third with contracts of 1,120 billion won, Daewoo Corp. was the top constructor in the public sector in 1992 for the second consecutive year with contracts of 837 billion won. It built private projects worth 275 billion won.

Daewoo netted some of the biggest public contracts such as a reclamation project in Mankeum, the pilot section of an express subway, and a flood protection and sewage system in Kulpochon.

Second place went to Dongah Construction Co. with contracts of 1,366.7 billion won, including public and private projects of 638 billion won and 728.7 billion won, respectively.

In fourth place came Samsung Construction Co., striking deals worth 1,090 billion won, including public works of 610 billion won and private works of 480 billion won.

Woosung Construction Co. rounded out the top five with 1,073.6 billion won in contracts, including a ring road around Seoul.

Following was Hyundai Housing and Industry Development Co. with contracts worth 862 billion won and Daelim Industry Co. with 606 billion won.

For overall contracting performance, including private and public projects, overseas construction, housing distribution, and company-related buildings, Hyundai engineering was first with deals worth 3,259 billion won.

Dongah was second with 1,935 billion won of contracts, followed by Daewoo with 1,923.5 billion won, Samsung with 1,932 billion won, Hyundai housing with 1,476 billion won, Lucky Development Co. with 1,285.4 billion won, Daelim with 1,202 billion won, Woosung with 1, 152.4 billion won, Sunkyong Engineering and Construction Co. with 1,073.4 billion won, and Kwangju Highway Lines with 882.2 billion won.

Conglomerates Reexamine Promoting Projects With North

SK2601045093 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Jan 93 p 8

[Text] South Korea's large business conglomerates are briskly reexamining ways of promoting projects with their North Korean counterparts with expectations that the stalled inter-Korean economic ties could be reinvigorated under the new administration of President-elect Kim Yong-sam, business sources said yesterday.

The business groups are developing strategies for gaining the upper hand in the implementation of inter-Korea projects should economic ties between South and North Korea develop at a rapid pace, the sources said.

Inter-Korea economic relations have been deadlocked over the issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Daewoo Business Group, the sources said, is expecting swift progress of a project involving the building of a light-industrial complex in the North Korean port city of Nampo, which Daewoo has been planning with North Korea.

North Korea has already completed the groundwork for creating the site of the industrial estate, and has begun construction of some of the industrial plants, reports said.

Daewoo has reportedly assigned an executive with U.S. citizenship to its branch in Beijing to have him monitor the progress of the project.

Samsung Co., the trading arm of Samsung Group, is considering the expansion of projects to manufacture products with South Korean materials and North Korean labor, as well as direct investments, according to the sources.

The general trading company last year imported 10,000 pairs of blue jeans produced in North Korea under such an arrangement.

Samsung executives have frequently visited Beijing to have direct and indirect contacts with North Koreans, in search of potential business opportunities, especially joint-ventures in the home appliance sector, they said.

Lucky-Goldstar International, a trading arm of Lucky-Goldstar Group, is reviewing plans to expand the manufacturing of garments in North with raw materials provided by the trading company. The company last year undertook a pilot project with its wholly-owned company in China to produce toys in North Korea.

It is also studying long-term ventures with North Korea to construct plants for daily necessities, petrochemicals and refining.

Other business groups have also reportedly made preparations for the possible resumption of inter-Korean economic ties by forming task forces.

DPRK Increasing Attempts To Induce Foreign Investors

SK2201073893 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] North Korea formulated and effectuated three laws pertaining to economic opening, including the "Foreign Investments Law," in October last year. As follow-up measures for this, North Korea was reported to have adopted four laws including the "Law on the Free Economic Trade Zone," the "Foreign Exchange Control Law," the "Taxation Law," and the "Bank Law."

In particular, the "Law on the Free Economic Trade Zone" allows 100 percent possession by foreign investors, and stipulates that prices shall be decided on according to market demands. In addition, this law was confirmed to have forward-looking provisions concerning economic openness to overseas, thus attracting people's attention.

At the same time, North Korea officially announced a decree of the Administration Council stipulating a system of special visas issued on the spot without going through the central government to ships entering Najin, the free trade zone. It was also learned that North Korea is hoping for active participation of our side's enterprises and individuals in this zone according to the Foreign Investments Law.

This was revealed by remarks of Kim Chong-u, chairman of North Korea's Committee for Promotion of Foreign Economic Cooperation (vice minister-level); Yi Haeng-ho, director of research institute for world economy and South-South cooperation, an affiliated organization of the Academy of Social Science, and Kwak Chong-nam, researcher of this institute, who attended the third Northeast Asian forum on Tumen River development project held in Hong Kong in mid November last year. They made these remarks to our delegation led by Sin Tae-hwan, who also attended this forum.

According to our delegation, the North Korean side revealed at this seminar that it adopted these four laws, including the Law on Free Economic Trade Zone which is regarded as an implementation decree of Foreign Investments Law. North Korean delegates spoke on a thesis, entitled "Legal Position of Najin-Sonbong Free Economic Trade Zone and Questions on Investment in This Zone" which constitutes the key points of the Law on the Free Economic Trade Zone.

The Law on the Free Economic Trade Zone, revealed by North Korean delegation, contains more than 30 detailed provisions concerning foreign enterprises' free investment and guarantee of limitless interests; permission of foreign enterprises' 100 percent possession; decision of prices according to market demands; free selection of forms of enterprises—individual, joint-venture, or corporation—and exclusion of measures for nationalization of enterprises.

In addition, the North Korean delegation told our side that "to complete the construction of 150-room size of a hotel in Najin which was suspended midway after building only its frame, South Korean enterprise can make an independent investment." The delegation added that "the South side may propose negotiations for this project through official channels of the South Korean Government or through an enterprise of a third country."

It has been learned that concerning Article 5 of the Foreign Investments Law on "Korean compatriots residing outside of territories of the Republic," the North Korean delegation explained that this article also includes "enterprises and individuals of South Korea" and ensures investment and business activities of an independent enterprise.

Laws on economic openness officially announced by North Korea up to present numbered nine in total, including the Joint-Venture Law.

Government Plans 'Simple' Inauguration

SK2601080593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0712 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—The government approved Tuesday [26 January] plans for Kim Yong-sam's inauguration to take place in front of the National Assembly building on Feb. 25.

Government Administration Minister Yi Mun-sok told Kim that the event would be kept simple with 30,000 guests, including former presidents, 200 exemplary citizens, 1,000 good farmers and fishermen, and 8,650 members of the Democratic Liberal Party. The ceremony will start at 10 A.M. and last for 40 minutes after 50 minutes of entertainment such as traditional music.

Sin Kyong-sik, spokesman of the transition team, has asked all the churches, cathedrals and buddhist temples in the nation to ring their bells for nine minutes from 10:09 As Kim takes the oath to welcome the launch of a new government and wish it a good luck.

The president-elect has asked for a simple and festive event in which people take part voluntarily.

Kim will give letters of appointment to his cabinet in the afternoon and preside over the first cabinet meeting the next day.

In the evening of Feb. 25, the government will stage fireworks displays and other celebrations in major cities. It will issue commemorative postage stamps and cigarettes to mark Kim's inauguration. Outgoing president No Tae-u will host a farewell dinner Feb. 23 and visit the national cemetery Feb. 24.

Opposition Seeks 28 Jan National Assembly Session

SK2501091193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0826 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 25 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Party and the United People's Party submitted a request Monday [25 January] to the National Assembly to convene an extraordinary session for one month from Thursday to discuss price increases and other pressing issues.

The other issues that the two opposition parties want the nation's unicameral legislature to debate include a surge in the number of small- and medium-sized companies declaring bankruptcy, measures to cope with the Uruguay Round of global trade negotiations and problems arising from the Dec. 18 presidential election. They also hope to deal with the appointment of Kim Yong-sam's prime minister.

But Democratic Liberal Party floor leader Kim Yong-tae indicated that the majority party had no intention of agreeing to the opposition request "since it does not make any sense to talk about pressing issues with a departing government."

DP, UPP Take 'Offensive' Against DLP

SK2201012693 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Jan 93 p 2

[By staff reporter Sim Chae-yun]

[Text] The opposition Democratic Party [DP] and the United People's Party [UPP] appear to be taking the offensive against the majority Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the government to bounce back from presidential election defeat.

Through the offensive, they will struggle to fortify party solidarity and patch up intra-party conflicts ahead of reorganization of the party leadership and structure torn asunder by the election and the rise of a ruling party stronger than ever with Kim Yong-sam's election victory.

The first opposition DP, which lost its main cohesive factor when its charismatic leader Kim Tae-chung left politics after his election defeat, is seeking to rally forces by taking issue with the Supreme Court's decision to pass sentence on Rep. Yi Pu-yong, one of the DP co-chairman.

The UPP, for its part, aims to escape a messy situation caused by a series of blunders by its leader Chong Chu-yong, culminating in Chong's being questioned by prosecution authorities on charges of violating election laws during the presidential campaign and co-chairman Kim Tong-kil's threatening to leave the party.

The DP judges it secured a good opportunity to attack the DLP and president-elect Kim with the Supreme Court decision to hand down a final ruling on Rep. Yi and Rep. So Sok-chae of the DLP.

In a meeting of party lawmakers Wednesday, the party members concurred on the need to take a collective stand to cope with Rep. Yi's problem.

The party believes the government authorities plan to grant amnesty to So, a right-hand man of president-elect Kim, along with Yi after the court ruling on the occasion of Kim's inauguration on Feb. 25.

In the meeting, the party members dubbed Yi's case an adroitly plotted political move to oppress the opposition camp. Rep. Yi is a dissident-turned first term lawmaker.

In a resolution they adopted winding up the meeting, they called on the Supreme Court to defer sentencing Kim until after the revision of such "undemocratic" and "anachronistic" laws as the National Security Law under which Rep. Yi was charged.

The party members are poised to take all necessary steps in case the Supreme Court finds Yi guilty, thus ripping him of his lawmaker seat.

Party co-chairman Kim Chong-kil and Reps. Hong Yong-ki and Chang Ki-uk visited the chief justice Wednesday protesting the court's decision to hand down a ruling on So together with Rep. Yi.

The party also renewed its demand the DLP and president-elect Kim apologize for trying to undermine former DP leader Kim by dubbing him a communist sympathizer during the election campaign.

The party issued a white paper describing attempts by the current and former governments and ruling parties to bill rival opposition candidates ideologically pink, if not red.

It seeks a special session of the National Assembly to deal with the issues, joining hands with the UPP. It also has threatened to hold public hearings over irregularities during President No Tae-u's stay in power.

For this latter step, the party has established a special committee for comprehensive appraisal of the policies of the sixth government, mainly taking issue with some preferential projects such as the construction of a high speed railway linking Seoul and Pusan and of an international airport on Yongjong islet.

Meanwhile, the UPP is also pulling out all possible political and legal tricks to cope with severe attacks from the DLP and government.

The party plans to send an open letter to President No Tae-u calling for an apology for the "biased" investigation of the election law violating alleged against UPP members including party leader Chong Chu-yong and the leniency shown to members of the DLP.

The party's key post-holders decided not to attend the meeting President No is to hold at Chongwadae for lawmakers.

The party is also seeking a direct offensive against president-elect Kim. It has already finished preparing the raft for a lawsuit, charging Kim with violating the presidential election law in a counter-attack against the DLP's move to indict the UPP's Chong.

Reportage on Kim Yong-sam Transition Activities

Links Nuclear, Economic Issues

SK2601121993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1127 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam plans to make the nuclear arms and dispersed family isues as the topmost tasks to resolve in his policy toward North Korea upon the birth of his government next month.

A close aid of the president-elect said Tuesday that to this end, kim's camp has been working on ways to promote South-North economic cooperation in linkage with the North's abandonment of its nuclear arms development and willingness to arrange reunion between families dispersed in the two sides.

"Inasmuch as nuclear arms development by North Korea is an issue directly related to peace on the Korean peninsula and further to the Korean people's survival, the issue ought to be resolved on a top priority basis," the aide said.

In this connection, he said, President-elect Kim will uphold the policy of linking economic cooperation to the North's stoppage of nuclear arms development.

Saying that another paramount task facing the new administration in its North Korean policy will be to settle the dispersed family issue, the aide said president-elect Kim is determined to promote dispersed family reunion along with the resolution of the nuclear arms question.

At the South-North prime ministers talks expected to resume in may or June, the South would expressly tell the North Koreans there would be no economic cooperation unless North Korea agrees to resolve these two issues, the aide said.

Stresses Revitalizing Economy

SK2601065093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0622 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam said Tuesday the immediate tasks for his administration would be to revitalize the nation's economy and root out corruption among government officials.

In order to wipe out official corruption, it was necessary to resolutely eliminate administrative regulations that were a hot bed of corruption, he said.

"Procedures for the construction of factories and drawing bank loans will also be drastically simplified," Kim, who will be inaugurated Feb. 25, told a luncheon he hosted for 11 former prime ministers, including Sin Hyon-hwak, Pak Chung-hun and Yu Chang-sun.

Hwang In-song, chief policymaker of the Democratic Liberal Party, convened a meeting of the party's various policy coordinators Tuesday to work out detailed plans for the 30 major campaign pledges Kim made during the election campaign. A report on the detailed plans would be submitted to the president-elect on Thursday, party sources said.

Misses Meeting With Kim Tae-chung

SK2601015993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0115 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 26 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung failed to meet Tuesday morning, hours before the former Democratic Party leader was scheduled to leave for Britain to study at Cambridge University for six months. Instead, Kim Yong-sam called his friend and long-time rival by phone and wished him a safe and fruitful journey, a spokesman said.

"I have said I was ready to visit you whenever you would notify me," Kim was quoted by spokesman Pak Yong-hwan as telling Kim Tae- chung. "I deeply regret I couldn't make it." Kim Yong-sam nevertheless wished Kim Tae-chung good health and a fruitful sojourn, Pak said.

Kim Tae-chung told Kim Yong-sam that he was sorry he could not get in touch with him but expressed hope that they would be able to meet after six months, Pak said.

The two Kims, as they were popularly known, had been expected to get together Tuesday morning for the first time since Kim Yong-sam defeated his friend in the Dec. 18 presidential election. Kim Yong-sam said he wanted to meet Kim Tae-chung to solicit his advice on national policies and his support after the leader of the Democratic Party (DP) declared his retirement from active politics following the presidential election.

A rift developed between the two men during the presidential campaign, however, when Kim Yong-sam reportedly questioned "the ideological color" of Kim Tae-chung, linking the Democratic Party leader with organizations sympathetic to Communists. An outraged Kim Tae-chung demand that Kim Yong-sam publicly apologize for making the charges, which he said were groundless.

There had been reports of a possible reconciliation shortly before Kim Tae-chung's departure for Britain, but their long- awaited, last-moment meeting failed to materialized Tuesday morning.

Kim Tae-chung is expected to undertake research on economics and problems related to unification of the country and to write a book on Korean political history since the nation's liberation from the Japanese colonialists in 1945.

Cabinet Choices 'First Test'

SK2201013093 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] If President-elect Kim Yong-sam aims to project an impression of boldness and change for his incoming administration, the first test of that goal will be his selection of cabinet and presidential staff members.

The way he builds his cabinet and Chongwadae staff will be a harbinger of his administration. He has to negotiate a minefield of demands from various factions, both right and left, to get a cabinet of a proper mix, while at the same time not appearing to renege on his campaign promise of change.

Sources in the major Democratic Liberal Party say Kim wants his choice of prime minister ratified by the National Assembly Jan. 25, on the same day he takes the oath of office, taking over from President No Tae-u.

Kim seeks to launch his cabinet early so that his government may push for reforms as soon as he is sworn in, the sources say. He will consult with his prime minister and chief of staff to assemble his cabinet.

Kim nas waded through compilations of names and met "representatives of all walks of life" to tap their opinions about cabinet and high-level political appointments.

Of all the personnel decisions Kim faces, none will determine the success of his administration more than his choice of the "big three"—the prime minister, presidential chief of staff and intelligence chief.

Sources around Kim say that he has already short-listed two or three candidates for each of the three top jobs. In contrast to the crowds of people mentioned as potential appointees for cabinet jobs, the sources say there is only a thin supply of credible candidates to serve as the big three.

Given Kim's habit of working things out in his own head, no one knows who he will select for the jobs, particularly whom he will pick as his chief of staff—his right hand man in Chongwadae.

But many see clues emerging in the way he defines one of the most ill-defined jobs in South Korea. Depending on the styles of the presidents, their chiefs of staff would be given enormous freedom to reign virtually as deputy presidents, or be relegated to a mere ceremonial job.

In a departure from his predecessor No, who usually filled the job with political figures, Kim is expected to make the job the most powerful post in his government.

Rumors abound that Kim will make his chief of staff a vice prime minister and give enormous emphasis on the presidential office's role in his reform drives.

Many around him say that Kim is looking for a man who can keep a relentless focus on his reform message.

With that job description in mind, speculation in the DLP headquarters about the future chief of staff is increasingly centered on two Kim Yong-sam loyalists—Reps. Choe Pyong-yol and Kim Tok-yong.

Choe earned extra points by successfully heading a group of campaign strategists for Kim. His reputation for straight talk and his compelling drive make him an eligible candidate for the job. He also has rich experience in the presidential office and cabinet posts.

A discreet and reserved man, Kim Tok-yong is Kim's closest aide who has been instrumental in engineering Kim's rise from an opposition leader to the top of the ruling camp and to the presidency.

His image as a reformist and his regional background (he is a Cholla native) speak well of his candidacy for the job.

Information about who the President-elect will select as his prime minister is scant. Speculation is that Kim is looking for a man who can reconcile competing views and coordinate all reform decisions.

The sources around Kim have said that his choice of the prime minister will be "something of a surprise."

Since Kim has promised to streamline the functions and structure of the Agency for National Security Planning, Kim is expected to pick someone who is politically less ambitious and well-versed in intelligence work as the head of the top intelligence body.

The top intelligence post used to be one of the most powerful political jobs, and past presidents have given the job to their most trusted loyalists.

Police Charge Australian With Industrial Espionage

SK2501083093 Seoul YONHAP in English GMT 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 25 (YONHAP)—South Korean police charged an Australian suspected of stealing secrets from a Korean loudspeaker maker and selling them to its U.S. rival with industrial espionage Monday.

Reich Bouthon, 47, is accused of the removing 30 computer disks containing confidential market information such as quotes given to foreign buyers from the Sammi Sound Tech Corp., where he was a production and sales executive, a police spokesman said. He is accused of selling them to U.S. loudspeaker-maker Aura Co. in Los Angeles for 10,000 U.S. dollars (7.91 millon won), he said. The Australian is also charged with defaulting on a loan of 14 million won (17,699 dollars) from sammi. Bouthon was employed by Sammi in August 1991 to help establish a factory in Britain.

The police spokesman said that Aura asked Bouthon to steal the information on Dec. 12. After stealing the disks, he said, Bouthon left Korea, breaking his contract with Sammi, and returned on Jan. 19 to set up a sister company to Aura. Police arrested him in a Seoul hotel on a tip from Sammi. A company official said that Sammi would have difficulty in overseas markets for a considerable time as a result of the loss of the information

A Filipino buyer had stopped buying from Sammi and started to purchase from Aura since the theft, he said, and there were two to three similar cases.

Aura had deciphered seven of the diskettes with information about the financial status and prices of 22 foreign buyers, the official alleged. Aura could not be reached for comment.

Passenger Threatens To Blow Up Airliner

SK2301143993 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1400 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] A Korean Air passenger plane which left Mokpo for Seoul on the evening of 23 January made an emergency landing at the Kwangju Airport because a male passenger in his fifties threatened to blow up the plane. The Korean Air passenger plane which left Mokpo at 1830 for Seoul made an emergency landing at around 1850 at the Kwangju Airport because Pak Kil-man (59) who lives in Chegi 1-tong, Tongdaemun-ku, Seoul, threatened to blow up the plane.

The passengers said that about 20 minutes after the plane took off, Mr. Pak suddenly put on a mask and said that he had an explosive and threatened to blow up the plane. Mr. Pak was caught by the crewmen and was handed over to the Kwangsan Police Station in Kwangju after the plane made an emergency landing at the Kwangju Airport. He is now under investigation.

Burma

Group Arrested for 'Writing Propaganda Graffiti'

BK2501154493 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Authorities have arrested a group of persons writing propaganda graffiti with intent to mislead and agitate the people on the walls of the port warehouse at the corner of Shwedagon Pagoda and Strand roads at 0330 on 9 December 1992. They were arrested for destroying the beauty of the city. Those arrested were Ne Lynn, son of U Tin U of Tamwe Township, and Kyaw Soe Win and Kyaw Soe Lin, sons of U Win Myint of Dagon Myothit Township. According to their disclosure, the person who gave the orders to write the graffiti was Thein Tun, age 44 years, son of U Htay of Pegu Township. Thein Tun is a member of an opposition organization illegally operating in Bangkok, Thailand. Their organization comes under the umbrella of the terrorist organization led by Sein Win and includes Naing Ko Ko, son of U Thein Win, of Thingangyun Township, and Sein Myint alias Mohamed Yunoos, son of U Hla Tin of Kawthaung.

Authorities concerned have also moved against Thein Tun, Naing Ko Ko, and Sein Myint. Thein Tun and Naing Ko Ko slipped back illegally into Myanmar [Burma] during August 1992 and persuaded and agitated innocent youths. Sein Myint is involved in business with illegal organizations in Thailand which deal in sending and greeting things, letters, and persons.

Authorities concerned have taken legal action against Thein Tun, Naing Ko Ko, and six others for instigating false rumors and for having contacts with terrorist organizations.

Similarly, in accordance with a tip-off that plans are being made to write and distribute propaganda leaflets with intent to destroy the peace and tranquillity in the country, responsible personnel have exposed and arrested U Aung Myint, age 57 years, son of U Thein Maung of South Okkalapa Township; Daw Khin Mar Aye, age 53 years, daughter of U Ba Thaung of Thingangyun Township; and Htay Myint alias Khin Soe, age 37 years, son of U Kyi of Thingangyun Township. They were arrested on 16 December 1992 together with the propaganda leaflets which they have written and entitled—To Fight for Democratic Human Rights—under the banner of the People's Workers Unity League, and the All Myanmar League for Solidarity of People's workers and the Lower Burma Ba-Ka-Tha [Bamah Naing Ngan Lon Saing Yar Kyaung-thar Myar Thamagga–All Burma Federation of Student Unions].Authorities have taken legal action against them.

Restricted Zone Declared in Gulf of Martaban

BK2501073093 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Myanmar [Burma] Oil and Gas Enterprise and Total-Myanmar Exploration and Production Company are conducting 3-D seismic surveys using the Ocean Explorer One and (Western Alas) vessels for offshore oil exploration operations in the Gulf of Martaban.

The operational areas between north latitude 15:00 and 15:15 degrees, and east longitude 94:40 and 94:50 degrees, are declared a restricted zone and section 144 has been promulgated in this zone.

The local coastal vessels are disturbing and causing difficulties to the offshore oil exploration operations. Therefore the announcement has been made to warn the fishing trawlers not to enter and engage in fishing activities in the restricted zone.

Journal Cited on Oil Exploration in Martaban

BK1901113193 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The report concerning the Premier Oil Company Limited's [POCL] discovery of oil and natural gas in Myanmar [Burma] was presented, including maps, in the weekly journal Oil and Gas Prospects in its 4-10 January 1993 issue, which was published in Singapore. The report is as follows:

POCL has prospected for and discovered natural gas in Myanmar with a production capacity of about 75 million cubic feet per year. In the POCL announcement, it said that production from the offshore Ye Tagun test oil well No. 1, one of the wells that was uncertain to produce oil in concession plot No. M-13, is 1,800 barrels per day of 47.5 degree API [American Petroleum Institute] oil. Drilling at the Ye Tagun test well No. 1 started in the third quarter of 1992 and is now 6,400-7,200 feet deep. The Myanmar Government's joint venture with POCL includes offshore concession plots No. M-12, No. M-13, and No. M-14 covering about 12 million acres in the Gulf of Martaban. In this area POCL is implementing a $1 billion [currency not further specified] French project on gas production.

During the last few months, at least two big companies have backed off from joint ventures with Myanmar due to disappointing results in exploration. But now a British Company and its group members have new hopes of discovering oil and gas in Myanmar's offshore area, based on POCL's findings.

The American Company Texaco is prospecting for oil and gas in Myanmar's off-shore area and has invested 50 percent in three offshore concession plots. POCL, the first company to be granted a concession after coordinating with the other joint venture companies of Texaco and Japan's Nippon, has agreed to accept 30 percent of the profits while Japan's Nippon company will take 20 percent. The Myanmar-owned Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise is entitled to a maximum of 15 percent of the profit.

The announcement also said POCL will continue to explore for oil and natural gas in the offshore concession plot No. M-13.

Oil Deal With French Firm Deflates Black Market

BK1901072293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0245 GMT 19 Jan 93

[by Kate Webb]

[Text] Rangoon, Jan 19 (AFP)—A deal by the French oil company Total sent black market prices of petrol plummeting here this week, as Burmese motorists awaited the arrival of the first imported gasoline they have seen for years.

By Monday morning prices of black market gasoline sold in jerry cans at roadside stalls had plunged from 220 kyats (36 dollars) last week to between 140 and 160 (about 20 dollars) kyats as news of the deal spread.

According to published details, Myanmar Total, a joint venture of Total and the state Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprises (MOGE), is to start selling the first shipload of the imported gas in the Burmese capital late this month.

Initially, they are to operate five of the city's 20-odd gas stations 24 hours a day, selling at 120 to 150 kyats a gallon.

If things go smoothly, the operation could be expanded to other parts of the country.

In Burma, still fumbling its way out of a rigidly self-reliant and socialist economy, motorists used to ever-diminishing rations of domestically produced gasoline for the past 20 odd years are still debating what the effects will be.

Currently a Rangoon motorist pays 16 kyats a gallon for the two to four gallons a week the military junta allots them—two if the car is new, four if it is old.

But that does not go far, and most are driven to the costly black market largely supplied by the military.

A little more gasoline trickles in from the now-open border with China, but it is low quality and until now the marketeers and their military suppliers have had a field day.

"We will be able to keep our prices up because the new gasoline will be bad quality," one local black marketeer argued confidently with a car-owner Monday morning, turning a deaf ear to the motorist's retort that: "This will be European standard gas, not Chinese."

For Rangoon citizens the new Total deal is also another chip at the old socialist system, and at the bizarre two-tiered monetary system under which the kyat currently sells for around 6 to the dollar officially and between 100 and 120 unofficially.

The result is that imports are beyond the reach of the poor, government pay scales abysmal, joint ventures and traders stuck with double book-keeping and foreign investors scared off.

But for critics of the junta—known the State Law and Order Restoration Council or SLORC for short—the deal is double edged, coming at a time when European Community (E.C.) governments are pressuring the junta to democratise.

Only nine days ago E.C. ambassadors boycotted the opening of a SLORC convention on a new constitution in which delegates were admonished to ensure a lasting role for the military in Burma's future political life.

"They (the Europeans) are double-faced," said one of the regimes critics, none of whom wanted to be identified for fear of the SLORC.

Government sources say Total struck the deal with MOGE as a spin-off from its commitment to develop an offshore gas field in the Gulf of Martaban and associated pipelines to Burma and to neighbouring Thailand.

They also noted the agreement comes into effect at the time 13 new onshore blocs are being offered by SLORC to foreign bidders, most of whom have quit Burma after rushing in in 1989 only to drop out one by one after a series of dry holes.

Minister Returns From Paris, Bangkok Signings

BK2401144993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw arrived back in Yangon [Rangoon] by air this evening after attending treaty-signing ceremonies in France, Switzerland, and Thailand.

The minister was welcomed at Yangon airport by Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Minister Brigadier General Maung Maung, Prime Minister's Office Minister Brig. Gen. Lun Maung, Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe, directors general from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible personnel, French Ambassador Mr. Alain Briottet, and Thai Ambassador Mr. Wirasak Futrakun.

Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw attended the ceremony to sign the treaty banning chemical weapons held in Paris, France, on 13-15 January and signed the treaty on 14 January on behalf of the Myanmar [Burmese] government.

The foreign minister next proceeded to Switzerland and attended the United Nations Disarmament Conference held in Geneva on 19 January and delivered an address.

Furthermore, U Ohn Gyaw went to Bangkok, Thailand, at the invitation of the Thai foreign minister, and signed an agreement to set up a Myanmar [Burma]-Thai Joint Commission on 21 January.

U Denzil Abel, deputy director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Daw May Ohn Myint Lwin, assistant director; and Daw Moe Thuzar, personnel assistant of the minister, also returned with the minister.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Rulers Criticized for 'Selfish Interests'

BK2401135993 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 19 Jan 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The Decision of Rulers Disappoints the Masses"]

[Text] In fact, the decision of Malay rulers at the end of a special session of the Conference of Rulers regarding amendments to the Constitution yesterday strongly disappointed the people. Hopes which had grown following a series of discussions between the rulers and the government since last Saturday, should have blossomed yesterday as a sign of intimate and harmonious relations between the rulers and the people. Unfortunately, the desire was suddenly ruined by a 10-paragraph unanimous statement that the Malay rulers could not give their consent to the proposed constitutional amendments presented to them. Their reason that the proposal would "make radical changes to the sovereignty, position, and dignity of the Malay rulers" clearly showed their strong selfish interests.

Indeed, we have been of the opinion that the process will make great changes to the institution of the rulers in the country because the government is attempting to "humanize the rulers" so that not only will they have a dignified place in the social hierarchy but they will also be in harmony with the customs and laws enforced on the people. However, we find it rather difficult to understand how the rulers could say that there would be radical changes to their sovereignty, position, and dignity because such matters should not have been judged by themselves, but by the people. What is the significance of the sovereignty, position, and dignity of the rulers if the people refuse to go along with them?

In fact, the people have accorded the rulers and their relatives glory and dignity as a social contract that the rulers themselves, by setting glorious examples, will respect all laws and the Constitution that they and the people have agreed upon. However, it will be rather impossible to expect the rulers to set the desired examples if they are exempted from any charters or laws enforced on the people. Based on logic and religion, the exemption is indeed illogical. Indeed, the people hope for the immediate humanization of the rulers to enable the Constitution to become something dynamic and up-to-date.

We view as incorrect the rulers' argument that there will be radical changes to their sovereignty, position, and dignity if the amendments are made because the amendments are designed to perfect the Constitution and to harmonize relations between the rulers and the people. On the contrary, we are worried that if no slight changes are made in relations between the rulers and the people, the people will see the status quo as a defect that must be removed from the Constitution. This is in turn very likely to harm the institution itself. It is a fact that the people have long been displeased with the legal inequality between the rulers and the people. Only love for our national history and culture has thus far deterred any negative reactions to the situation.

Before we lose harmonious relations, we must immediately correct the royal joke that emphasizes the royalty's rights and privileges more than equal responsibility in an independent nation. Under this spirit, we think that Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed still hopes that the rulers will consider the reality and agree to the amendments even though the government can by legal virtue secure popular consent through the Parliament to amend the Constitution. In the meantime, all necessary steps must be taken to strengthen the country's constitution in the name of justice and make it into a charter to protect the people's interests. In fact, these changes will have to be brought into effect before the displeasure smolders and subsequently destroys the harmony we have been enjoying since independence—something that the rulers themselves were unable to bring about when the country was under colonial rule.

JDA Official Calls for Regional Defense Caucus

BK2201075093 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0703 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—ASEAN and Japan should set up a caucus to discuss regional defence to facilitate greater dialogue on the issue, a senior Japan Defence Agency (JDA) official said Friday.

Although the Cold War was over, there were various regional issues which might trigger off conflicts, said the director-general of JDA's Personnel Bureau, Masahiro Akiyama.

He was addressing a one-day forum on "Japanese defence policy: current and future trends" here organised by the Malaysian International Affairs Forum (MIAF).

Akiyama said the proposed caucus should be along the line of regional economic cooperation fora, such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) mooted by Malaysia.

He said Japan's External Department should take the first move towards implementing the proposed caucus to discuss regional defence.

Akiyama said while Japan felt that the U.S. presence in the region was necessary, it was now giving more attention to its own defence needs.

For the period from 1991 to 1995, Japan had allocated 22.75 trillion yen to build up the Japan Defence Forces

(JDF) compared to 18.4 trillion yen spent for the same purpose under the previous five-year programme from 1986, he said.

However, the expenditure was not on high technology equipment, he added.

He said currently the JDF have about 180,000 personnel, 650 aircraft, 16 submarines, and 60 ships.

In the past the JDF faced difficulty in recruiting young Japanese because of the booming economy, he said.

However, with the economic downturn in Japan, more Japanese were joining the Defence Forces with intake of new personnel ranging from 15,000 to 20,000 annually, he said.

Minister: E. Asia Immune From Economic Maladies

BK1801140693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0718 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 18 (OANA-BERNAMA)—East Asia is on the threshold of self-sufficiency and has relative "immunity" from the economic maladies of developed countries, Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Monday. He said Europe and the United States had not been able to climb out of the economic downturn unlike this region which was emerging as the focal point of the global economy.

The East Asian region had over the past decades rapidly grown into economic prominence, doubling its share of world output when compared with its share in 1965, he said when opening the Asian Forum Malaysia conference here.

The two-day event, on the topic "Economic integration and cooperation in East Asia", is organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia and Asia Forum Japan.

This region accounted for one fifth of world output in 1990, while Europe's share had stagnated at one quarter share and U.S. share sharply declined from 40 percent to around 25 percent, Anwar said. He said that as a group, East Asia now had enough market power to dissuade Europe and America from adopting "the closed and unyielding stance that recently characterised their actions."

He reiterated that the East Asian Economic Causus [EAEC] would prove that regional groupings did not necessarily translate into trade blocs.

Earlier, Asian Forum Japan advisor, Takujiro Hamada, said the EAEC should not be seen as an attempt to exclude the United States and other Pacific rim countries from discussions on Asian issues. The EAEC provided a forum for mutual discussion among top leaders from this region around a single table, he said.

The Asian Forum was formed in Japan in 1987, as a network for dialogue for politicians, business leaders, and scholars from Asian nations. Since then, the network has been extended to include Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, and possibly Thailand, next year.

Minister on Investment Opportunity in Vietnam

BK2001093393 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Vietnam is keen on more Malaysian participation in their privatization program such as infrastructure development, and exploitation of oil resources.

International trade and industry minister, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, said the Vietnamese Government had also invited Malaysia to invest in the domestic consumer market. These are the identified areas for foreign investment under the Vietnam master plan. She said this to newsmen after receiving Vietnamese Finance Minister Mr. Ho Te at her office in Kuala Lumpur. Ho and his delegation leave for home after a six-day visit to Malaysia.

Datuk Sri Rafidah said the Vietnamese Government had pledged assistance to ensure the viability of Malaysian investment projects, such as the setting up of export processing zones [EPZ's]. She said the Malaysian consortium undertaking the mammoth EPZ project in Danang will be submitting its proposal on the project to the Vietnamese Government soon. Several Malaysian companies such as the Renong Group, Public Bank, the (?Nanyang) Group, and Petronas [state-owned oil corportation] have sought larger investment in the newly opened Vietnam economy. Total Malaysian investment in Vietnam is valued at about 200 million ringgit—well ahead of the level of investment from other ASEAN countries.

Cambodia

Chea Sim Opens Assembly Session 25 Jan

BK2501141793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Speech by National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim at 25 January opening ceremony of the 24th regular session of the National Assembly in Phnom Penh—recorded]

[Text] Beloved prince, your excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen: Today, our National Assembly opens its 24th regular session to sum up and evaluate the activities carried out in all fields in 1992 and to set targets for the future to be achieved through the efforts of various goodwilled Cambodian parties and supported by the contribution of material and financial assistance from the entire international community. The entire assembly would like to express its profound gratitude for the joint efforts made by the international community to seek ways to settle the deadlock caused by the Khmer Rouge faction so as to enable the implementation of all points of the peace agreement to proceed well and achieve genuine results.

UN Resolution No. 792 adopted by the UN Security Council on 30 November 1992 was encouraging to the Cambodian people.

The Royal Government of Thailand's donation of closing the Cambodian-Thai border as of 1 January 1993 positively contributed to overcoming the difficulties in the implementation of the above resolution. The Cambodian people are convinced that Thailand will continue to take appropriate measures and will fortify those measures already taken to make them even more effective so as to pressure the Khmer Rouge to return and implement the peace agreement. The Cambodian people express their hope that the neighboring countries and the international community will certainly not allow the Khmer Rouge any chance to destroy the Paris agreement and that finally genuine peace will fall into the hands of the Cambodian people.

Now and in the future, the Cambodian people throughout the country jointly uphold His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of the nation, head of state, and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC], who is carrying out his sublime royal mission to achieve national reconciliation and peace for the motherland and people and to rebuild the country. The prince father provides us with the only cool shade we have as his children and grandchildren, and he is the most outstanding leader who has done outstanding feats, has clear-sighted wisdom, and has prominence and prestige on the five continents. All of us, his children and grandchildren, place full confidence in him and believe he deserves to be elected president of Cambodia.

Our National Assembly would like to express profound gratitude to the international community and all countries in the region for supporting the proposal made by the State of Cambodia's [SOC] faction regarding the holding of the presidential elections prior to the elections of the constituent assembly and for the current movement they are carrying out to actively achieve this end.

On this auspicious occasion, the entire assembly would like to salute and highly evaluate the appropriate efforts and contributions made by the officials, administrators, employees, Armed Forces, policemen, and people throughout the country who, uniting around the Cambodian People's Party and the SOC Government, have sincerely implemented with a lofty sense of responsibility all clauses of the peace agreement, and who have patiently endured all the bad consequences caused by the Khmer Rouge faction.

At present, the Cambodian people need all kinds of aid from the international community to rebuild our national society's infrastructure and their new lives on the path toward peace. Particularly in this transitional period, the repatriation of refugees from various camps in Thailand and the bad consequences from natural disasters, from the war, and from the recent destructive acts of the Khmer Rouge, are causing acute problems in economic and social fields which certainly cannot be resolved by the Cambodian forces alone. The generosity and humanitarian spirit that the international community displayed at the international conference held in Tokyo on 22 June 1992 are certainly very valuable, but they must be quickly put into action for the benefit of the Cambodian people.

Any attempt to undermine efforts and cause Cambodia's socioeconomic situation to worsen in this transitional period with the Khmer Rouge's sabotage activities under way, will certainly bring about most serious consequences to the coming elections and bring instability to the new government. This will provide an opportunity for the Khmer Rouge to continue their military adventure in order to return to power.

Beloved prince, your excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen, in the year 1992, the Cambodian motherland recorded historic events—the implementation of the peace agreement with the participation of about 20,000 UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] force members from 40 countries—that should have opened a new stage, an end to the war, in line with the peace plan. But the Khmer Rouge—the leading faction in destroying the agreement and in committing sabotage and espionage—have caused a deadlock, confrontation, and tension in all aspects, militarily, politically, diplomatically, and psychologically. They have brought bad consequences and destruction to our entire national society, particularly to the daily economic and social life and to our stability, security, and public order. They have also plunged the implementation of the peace agreement into an acute crisis.

By refusing to implement the peace agreement, the Khmer Rouge remain the cause of instability, a grave threat to the neutral political atmosphere in the transitional period, and the source of terrorism, violence, tragedy, and devastation to the people and our entire national society.

In the implementation of the economic and financial plans, despite the continuing imbalance and new difficulties, our government [words indistinct] in response to the requirements of our officials, administrators, employees, soldiers, and policemen so as to cope with the rising rate of inflation which is higher than in the past years and the prices of all sorts of goods which have increased by several fold. It is true that those measures can ease our people's difficulties to some degree only, but our government has never spared its effort to do anything it can.

Due to the bad consequences and drought, the rice yield from 1992 production dropped to a level inadequate to meet the food demands within the country. In 1993, our country will suffer a shortage of about 200,000 metric tons of rice to the point that we must appeal for humanitarian aid from the international community.

In the development of national society, our government has continued to implement the policy of economic openness and to encourage foreign investment in the service of our national society. At the same time, our government has tried to modify laws on trade, import-export, taxes, customs duties, and banking and finance so as to create new vigor for improving the national economy, increasing national income and budgets, and enhancing the capabilities to lead, control, and manage the national economy.

As far as ensuring social justice, a move against social inertia is being carried on simultaneously with efforts to solve people's grievances. People's complaints and charges are being settled attentively so as to ensure and protect social justice and truth.

To correctly implement the agreement, our government has strived to promote respect for human rights and people's rights and freedoms and has expanded the implementation of the multiparty democractic system. Political prisoners have been released from prisons throughout the country. Various political parties have set up offices in Phnom Penh and in the provinces. Some of them have even held congresses [words indistinct].

At the same time, we have taken several measures to check banditry, coercion, intimidation, political assassination, and espionage acts which are the schemes of the Khmer Rouge and other hostile forces attempting to create instability in Cambodian society and to place blame on the SOC Government—the host party which controls a large part of the territory and population. Simultaneously, the National Assembly Standing Committee, together with the judicial organizations and our government, have arranged several legal measures in keeping with all laws approved by the SNC and UNTAC and put them into action for maintaining normalcy in the transitional period.

In sum, in 1992, our SOC Government made every effort within its authority to protect each citizen's interests, right to ownership, freedom, religious beliefs, honor, value, and happy life, and the country's stability, order, and development with a lofty sense of responsibility for our nation's history. The SOC Government, which has a historic mission handed to it by the Cambodian people since 1979 and which is the only force for ensuring stability and security in the transitional period, will continue to uphold its tasks in all aspects by further striving, in cooperation with UNTAC and the SNC toward achieving the universal elections to elect the constituent assembly and form a new government. The full implementation, no more and no less, of the peace plan remains our highest priority task. The implementation of the peace agreement is the only means of bringing peace and national reconciliation to Cambodia. In this connection, our National Assembly holds that it is essential and indispensable to continue to maintain the existing state power as defined in the agreement. Any attempt to bring back power sharing or to change the power during the transitional period prior to the elections of the constituent assembly and president, not only contravenes the agreement but can also cause more acute complications in the implementation of the peace plan.

The idea of breaking the deadlock should not come with any condition that might cause a new deadlock. The international community should encourage any party that correctly implements the peace plan and should give necessary protection to that party in regard to violations by another party that refuses to implement the peace plan, thus avoiding a situation where the former party becomes the victim in the cause of peace and national reconciliation. On the contrary, for any party that does not implement the peace plan, strict measures must be taken as a warning, and punishment must be meted out in a degree commensurate to their violations. Urgent, appropriate measures should then be taken to force it to return to implement the agreement. Any new conditions set in contravention of the agreement in an attempt to fulfill the unreasonable demand of the party that does not implement the agreement, will certainly bring bad consequences to the fate of the peace plan and set the Cambodian people back in the game of the warlike, violent forces whose hands are stained with blood.

The statement made by our SOC Government on 5 January 1993 reflects the sincere and genuine desire of the Cambodian people who do not want anything but the quick implementation of the peace plan. It also reflects our SOC Government's lofty sense of responsibility for the destiny of the motherland and people in the new historic period in which the struggle to implement [words indistinct] regarding the incessant violations by the Khmer Rouge.

Availing myself of this occasion and in line with the prevailing advice of the Council of Ministers, I would like to make an appeal, on behalf of the National Assembly, to all administrative authorities at all levels, and all officials, cadres, and male and female combatants of the Armed Forces. You should jointly strive to maintain the neutral political atmosphere, to check the Khmer Rouge's attempt to expand their territory for creating insecurity, and to prevent the armed robbery, political terrorism, and (?coercion), which are the cause of deadlock to the freedoms of movement and expression [words indistinct] toward a free, correct, and fair election in an atmosphere of political neutrality and security. The administrators at all levels should enhance their cooperation with UNTAC in taking necessary measures to protect (?members of) political parties and the people within their own localities, check all forms of crimes, and thoroughly ensure public order.

Beloved prince, excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen, it is [words indistinct] our National Assembly opens its 24th regular session to jointly examine and seek effective measures for surmounting all obstacles and difficulties in the process of national development and in implementation of the Paris peace agreement. In this connection, I would like to call on all assembly members to enhance your spirit of love for the nation and people and actively express your opinions so as to jointly clear all remaining large and small obstacles and set forth a genuinely effective solution.

In this session's agenda, in addition to the important issues concerning socioeconomic development, security, and foreign affairs, a number of bills, including the amendment to some articles of the Constitution, will be presented for approval by our National Assembly. Those bills are important to the present transitional period and are in line with the spirit of the Paris peace agreement of which our SOC is a signatory and the most responsible and important party in its implementation. With firm confidence in the valuable contribution by our members and with many thanks for the presence of your highness, excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen, I now announce the opening of the 24th regular session of our National Assembly.

12-13 Jan KR Attacks in Kompong Cham Reported

BK2301092393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] At 0500 on 12 January, Khmer Rouge elements from Division 785 raided the administrative post at Pring Chrum commune, Cheung Prey district [Kompong Cham Province], wounding three people—including a militia man, a policeman, and a villager—damaging an office building, burning some documents, and robbing the people of 910,000 riels. And at 0800 on the same day at Ta Prok commune in Chamka Leu district, 17 Khmer Rouge soldiers armed with (RPD) guns and B-40 and B-40.5 rocket launchers infiltrated Sen Sok village and robbed rubber plantation workers of 400,000 riels and some belongings.

At 0040 on 13 January, 30-35 Khmer Rouge elements from E-560 unit attacked our police station at Cheung Chhnok village, Tang Srang Commune, Batheay district, killing a policeman and wounding another and taking away nine guns and a television set. And at 2230 on the same day, 15-20 Khmer Rouge soldiers from the 417th division fired two B-40 rockets and many AK rounds on the 43d provincial battalion's position at Dang Kda village in Stoeng Trang district.

Hor Namhong Meets With France's Dumas

BK2001095393 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 20 Jan (SPK)—France and Cambodia have agreed on their wish to have the expected elections moved forward in order to elect a president of the Cambodian republic, it was learned Monday at the French Foreign Ministry after talks between Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his Cambodian counterpart from Phnom Penh, Hor Namhong.

A French spokesman, cited by AFP, said Hor Namhong briefed Roland Dumas on the situation in Cambodia and expressed the wish that the presidential elections be held on 5 April, ahead of the constituent elections planned for May by the Paris conference.

According to the spokesman, Dumas replied to Hor Namhong that it has been some time since France expressed its favorable view toward the expected presidential election of a Cambodian head of state at the earliest date possible, to be followed within a reasonable amount of time by assembly elections in conformity with UN Security Council Resolution 792.

The Cambodian minister told AFP that there is "a consensus among Cambodian parties and the majority of countries concerned with the United Nations peace plan for Cambodia" for an expected election. According to him, only an expected presidential election can thwart "the threat imposed by the Khmer Rouge on the United Nations peace plan."

Taking into account the pledge by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the only declared candidate in this election, the 5 April date seemed the most appropriate, added Hor Namhong. This date will be proposed by the SOC [State of Cambodia] Government at the meeting, planned for 28 January in Beijing, of the SNC [Supreme National Council], which groups the four Cambodian factions, to be chaired by Prince Sihanouk.

Returns From France 21 Jan

BK2201065893 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0412 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 22 Jan (SPK)—Mr. Hor Namhong, Cambodian minister of foreign affairs and member of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), returned to Phnom Penh on Thursday, 21 January, after completing a visit to France.

During his stay there, Minister Hor Namhong took part in a conference on "the convention on the ban of chemical arms" held from 13 to 15 January under the chairmanship of President Francois Mitterrand.

Mr. Hor Namhong had separate talks with UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, chief of European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission Claude Cheysson, and other French officials.

During these talks Cambodia's chief diplomat informed his interlocutors of the outcome of the Paris peace accord's implementation, particularly of the cease-fire violations by the Khmer Rouge.

"The Khmer Rouge must be excluded from the accords if they do not take part in the elections," affirmed Mr. Hor Namhong, who asked the UN Security Council to bring about measures aimed at ending the military activities carried out by this guerrilla faction.

Mr. Hor Namhong also asked UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to do everything in order to reclaim the resolution of the UN Security Council.

He reiterated the proposal of the State of Cambodia to set 5 April 1993 as the date of the presidential election.

Other questions relating to the relaunch of the peace process and the violations of the accords by the Khmer Rouge were also raised during the talks.

Indonesian Replacement Troops Arrive

BK2101110493 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1028 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan. 21 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia's advance contingent of Garuda XII-D which is reinforced by 200 troopers arrived here on Wednesday to start a peacekeeping mission under the auspices of the United Nations Transitional Authorities in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Led by its deputy Commandant Maj. Inf. [Major Infantry] Arief Rahman, the Garuda XII-D contingent is to replace the Garuda XII-B which has completed its peace mission in that country.

The Indonesian forces were welcomed with a military ceremony by Indonesian ambassador to Cambodia Taufik Rachman Sudarbo.

The ambassador who was accompanied by UNTAC's General Staff Affairs Chief Brig. Gen. Tamlicha Ali, also bid farewell to 175 Garuda XII-B peacekeepers who will return to Indonesia after completing their mission for eight months in Kompong Thom.

According to the ambassador, peace process in Cambodia had not gone well as expected, even there is a tendency that the political atmosphere is heating up in the face of the generel elections in Cambodia in May.

This is one of the causes of Garuda XII-D duties to become heavier than those of the previous peacekeepers, he said.

Indonesia's troopers previously taking part in the peacekeeping process have been considered successful thanks to their hard work, the ambassador said.

Heng Samrin Vows Support for Sihanouk 20 Jan

BK2101113993 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Speech by Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the State of Cambodia, at a ceremony inaugurating achievements at Pothivoan Monastery in Snao Commune, Phnum Penh District, Kandal Province on 20 January—recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots, Buddhist followers, teachers, and students: This morning I have the great honor of leading a high-level delegation of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] to take part in the ceremony to inaugurate school buildings, living quarters for monks, an assembly hall, and a long trail constructed at Pothivoan Monastery in Snao Commune, Phnum Penh district, Kandal Province with generous assistance from Buddhist monks and some of our compatriots from the United States, such as venerable monks Tol Lavarao and Tit Chhem, Mr. and Mrs. Chou Chhuk, and so on, and all Buddhist monks and followers and compatriots in this commune.

This inaugural ceremony is of deep significance for our people, who have at all times upheld the slogan emphasizing the need for the state and people to jointly deploy construction efforts. As the chairman of the district people's committee reported, Phnum Penh District, like other districts in the province and across the country, has suffered disaster before. In particular, villages, communes, and monasteries—including Pothivoan Monastery—on the northern side of national Route 4 were a silent forest and a deserted and frightening area. However, thanks to the great endeavors and the high heroism of Buddhist monks and followers, the compatriots both inside and outside the country, and the state authorities at all levels in the province, have closely joined hands to surmount all manner of difficulties. Pothivoan Monastery at Snao Commune in Phnum Penh district has been transformed from a deserted forest into a beautiful township belonging to Buddhists and students. This is remarkably proved today, which is the monastery's historic day.

Venerable monks Put Tham and Buon Kong, and Mr. and Mrs. Yu Chhiv, as well as Buddhist followers and compatriots of Pothivoan Monastery, have contributed their own fortunes to jointly construct three school buildings with six classrooms, a small concrete living quarter for monks, an assembly hall, and a 2,500-meter trail that we all see here. On behalf of the CPP, the SOC Government, and the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, and in my own name, I wish to express sincere gratitute and thanks to all our venerable monks, Buddhist followers, and people for their efforts in this valuable construction for the sake of our sacred Buddhism and for the brilliant future of our children for generations to come.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to recount a number of events related to the Cambodian problem, especially those that have occurred since the existence of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord. For more than one year after the signing of the Paris accord and since the day when His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk returned to our beloved motherland at the invitation of the CPP and the SOC Government, which afterwards offered the prince the function of legal head of state as in the period before 1970, the situation has evolved and thrived in all sectors. Through the accord, the United Nations, the international community, and political forces opposing us—which previously held that we embraced communism, oppressing and persecuting people and suppressing their freedom, and so on—have seen the concrete reality concerning the rebirth of our Cambodian people.

During the past 14 years, the CPP, the SOC Government, and our people have painstakingly made many sacrifices for the prosperity of our beloved motherland. Nevertheless, many achievements we have scored have continually been destroyed in war waged by the opposition groups, especially the Khmer Rouge. So far, as our motherland has reached a stage of national reunification aimed at putting an end to the war threatening our beloved motherland for more than two decades, the Khmer Rouge have not yet agreed to stop the destruction of their own nation. They have not only ignored world help, but also painstakingly intensified political and military sabotage against the Paris peace accord that they have signed, creating a chaotic and complicated situation throughout society. This constitutes the most worrisome threat to our motherland's move forward torward peace. For us, the SOC side, which has been the incumbent administration and host party since the beginning, we have not only actively and sincerely executed the terms of the Paris accord, but have also earnestly done whatever we can to promote the great and unified national union forces by overcoming difficulties and making concessions with fortitude.

With the invitation of Prince Norodom Sihanouk to return home, the creation of favorable conditions for the prince to carry out his tasks of national reunification, the unswerving resolution to follow the prince, the support of the prince's candidacy in the forthcoming election for a Cambodian president or head of state, and the proposal to hold the presidential election ahead of legislative elections, the CPP and the SOC Government only wish to see the motherland of Angkor recover peace and our Cambodian people enjoy happiness and safety. We have done everything to deter Khmer Rouge military violations and to guard against a number of complications arising externally, with the aim of upholding the necessary situation to achieve the ultimate goal—free and correct general elections in the near future.

However, the Khmer Rouge have strived to further hinder everything. Now terrorism and violations committed by the Khmer Rouge have increased along with terrorism and banditry in townships and cities, as well as instigations of disturbance and anarchy. This proves that our Cambodian people's bitterness and suffering have been prolonged endlessly. Although condemned by international and public opinion for their breaches, the Khmer Rouge continue to persist in brutally bullying our people. This emphatically demonstrates that the Khmer Rouge are not willing to renounce their ambition of using military force to overthrow the SOC for the purpose of returning to Cambodia the devastation of their regime of three years, eight months, and 20 days.

Dear ladies, gentlemen, and fellow compatriots: Our main objective is to make the process of implementing the accord successful. So, as the incumbent administration responsible for blocking the recurrence of the genocidal regime, our competent authorities at all levels should heighten their vigilance, be self-reliant, and cooperate with UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in preventing as much terrorism and turmoil as we can with a view to maintaining law and order and social stability, and ensuring security for our people. In addition, I wish to appeal to all factions and political parties to simultaneously and altogether create a neutral political environment with goodwill and sincerity. Also, I would like to call on UNTAC to continue carrying out their work with a neutral stance in order to discover the cause of negative phenomena on a timely basis. It should take urgent actions against the faction or political party that is behind the incidents.

To allow our motherland to regain genuine peace representing the ardent desire of our people, all people across the SOC should promote great national union and unity by joining the CPP and the SOC Government in exhibiting fortitude to experience the present difficulties and in following the prince father forever.

With joyful sentiments at the inaugural ceremony in Pothivoan Monastery at Snao Commune in Phnum Penh district of Kandal Province, I wish everyone all the best. May every Buddhist monk enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. Thank you.

KR 'Luring' Refugees Into Areas of Control

BK2201032993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jan 93 p A2

[Text] The Khmer Rouge is luring Cambodian refugees back into areas it controls by offering them guarantees of arable land which the UN cannot match, the head of the Cambodian Repatriation Programme, Lt Gen [Lieutenant General] Sanan Kachomklam, said yesterday.

He said the guerrilla faction was promising returnees a rai of land for a house and another three rai for each member of the family, including babies, for cropping if they resettle around Yaiath village in Sisophone province.

The UN has met a major obstacle in finding arable land for refugees returning under the repatriation programme as most land in Cambodia, and in particular around Battambang, is already occupied.

The offer of the Khmer Rouge faction appeared to fulfil the needs of the returnees in terms of arable land, Lt Gen Sanan said.

About 250 Cambodians from the Site X camp who sided with the Khmer Rouge during the decade-long war had chosen to settle in Yaiath, he said.

Refugees from other factions—including the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and the Phnom Penh government—had also volunteered to resettle there.

Rong Nonn, chief of Yaiath village said about 770 Cambodians from four factions have been resettled in the 49 square kilometres around the village.

He said there was room for up to 10,000 more people and he would ask his "military" to extend provisions of land to the north and the east of the village to accommodate returnees.

Lt Gen Sanan said the village could be seen as a symbol of freedom and unity where the people from four factions can live together in harmony.

Officials from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) have begun registering displaced voters for the May general elections in Site 2 Camp in Prachin Buri's Ta Phraya district prior to their return to Cambodia under the UN programme.

Registration for the forthcoming elections closes at the end of the month.

Returnees on the UN lists will be given a registration card when they arrive in Cambodia.

Sanan said he believed the repatriation process should [be] hurried up to ensure all were back home in time for the presidential election likely to be held before the general election.

Khmer Rouge Acts Against UNTAC Condemned

BK2201104493 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Station commentary: "When the Dog Is at Bay"]

[Text] In a news conference held on 19 January, Eric Falt, spokesman of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], revealed that on 18 January, the Khmer Rouge began putting a house of 12 UNTAC personnel in Pailin under armed guard. The personnel include three mine clearers, four signallers, three military observers, and two Cambodian interpreters.

Eric Falt also revealed that during the past two weeks, all UNTAC helicopter flights to Pailin were forbidden; thus, all the supplies to UNTAC personnel there had to be sent by land. UNTAC personnel have been deprived of their previous freedom of movement. This is another arrogant act of the Khmer Rouge against UNTAC.

It should be noted that a day before this event in Pailin, that is, on 17 January, the Khmer Rouge captured four UNTAC personnel in an area 20 KM west of Kompong Thom town. On 18 January, two UNTAC poll registration officers and many other civil police officers and interpreters were captured by Khmer Rouge in Memot district of Kompong Cham Province. The Khmer Rouge released these officials at 0700 on the morning of 19 January after confiscating their personal belongings and identity cards.

The aforementioned activities of the Khmer Rouge clearly show that they will not return to join the implementation of the Paris agreement, which was also signed by Khieu Samphan and Son Sen on 23 October 1991.

Resolution No. 792 dated 31 November 1992 sets 31 January as the final date for the Khmer Rouge to answer whether they will or will not rejoin the peace process in Cambodia. But as the final date is drawing near, the Khmer Rouge have intensified their activities, violating the agreement and committing offences against UNTAC, as if in defiance of the international community.

The most important point is that the Khmer Rouge have captured UNTAC officials in various areas other than Pailin—which is a Khmer Rouge base concerning which Khieu Samphan used to threaten that no security would be provided for any guests entering this zone, even with prior notice.

However, the Khmer Rouge activities in holding up UNTAC personnel in Pailin, which Khieu Samphan has said is a 100-percent safe zone—is a serious encroachment upon UNTAC officials who have been permitted to stay in this zone. This action was committed after the Khmer Rouge kept accusing UNTAC of giving money, supplies, and military assistance to the State of Cambodia. This accusation has been rejected by John Sanderson.

Moreover, this holding of 12 UNTAC officials in Pailin took place simultaneously with the warning made by UNTAC Chief Akashi on Monday, 18 January—after his meeting with His Excellency Suharto, Indonesian president—for the Khmer Rouge to make a decision before the end of this month as to whether they want to take part in the elections or not.

Also on 18 January, Eric Falt announced that there are only 10 days left for the Khmer Rouge to decide whether to join the elections to be organized in Cambodia by the United Nations or to let the elections proceed without them.

Certainly, these latest activities of the Khmer Rouge are the acts of a dog at bay.

It is widely known that military means are the only option that the Khmer Rouge always take in their last-ditch struggle. This is because if they agree to take part in the elections, it would be tantamount to digging a ditch for burying themselves.

Their incomparably savage crimes are still fresh in the mind of every Cambodian. Thus, nobody will give his vote to this criminal clique. Seeing their defeat from afar, the Khmer Rouge will certainly not join in the game.

The Khmer Rouge have resorted to all possible tricks and pretexts to bar or, at least, prolong the implementation of the Paris agreement so as to advance toward destroying this big plan of the United Nations.

But their groundless bargaining and demands can fool no one. They will only find themselves in a deadlock.

Lately, they have played a risky game in their attempts to capture UNTAC officials as hostages for use as a bargain.

But one miscalculation that the Khmer Rouge have made is that the international community will absolutely not follow them nor allow them to do whatever they want.

The Khmer Rouge must open their eyes and look clearly at events in the Persian Gulf, Yugoslavia, and Somalia.

We hope that the United Nations will not allow the Khmer Rouge to trample upon its honor and prestige.

Our people strongly condemn these most cowardly and abominable acts of the Khmer Rouge, and solemnly pledge to give even closer cooperation to UNTAC so as to achieve the sublime goal of the United Nations and bring peace, independence, and prosperity back to our motherland.

'Stringent Measure' Against Khmer Rouge Urged

BK2401094593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Jan 93

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "It Is Imperative to Take a Stringent Measure Against the Khmer Rouge"—date not given]

[Text] Time is now drawing near to the deadline of the ultimatum for the Khmer Rouge to rejoin the implementation of the Paris agreement in its final stage, that is the elections.

As there is only a little time left before 31 January, not only have the Khmer Rouge acted indifferently, but they have also intensified military activities and escalated the scale of civil war even more barbarously in various provinces, such as Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, and Kompong Thom.

Worse still, they have committed even more serious acts against UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], capturing and detaining UNTAC workers and personnel in Kompong Chhnang Province and Pailin.

All of this is a clear signal that the Khmer Rouge will definitely not return to implement the agreement nor take part in the elections to be held on 31 January.

In such a case, how will the Cambodian situation develop after 31 January?

We are convinced that if no measure is taken against these hardheaded Khmer Rouge, the situation in Cambodia will certainly turn dim and keep on worsening to the point that the implementation of the Paris agreement will fail and the elections will be totally destroyed. In such a case, the State of Cambodia—the party which has fully implemented the agreement—will be the one to suffer most from such a situation.

To avoid such a situation, we see that from now on, an effectively stringent measure should be taken to make the Khmer Rouge put an immediate end to their violations of the agreement in the Cambodian peace process. That measure means that when the deadline is due and the Khmer Rouge still refuse to rejoin the accord implementation, the UN Security Council should reconsider the possibilities for amending the UNTAC mandate and the reasons that the Khmer Rouge should no longer be regarded as a legal political party.

Another good measure is to set 5 April as the date for the elections of Cambodian president—we can foresee that only His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk will be elected. This measure is very important because it is necessary to give the elected president sufficient time to fulfill his main tasks to achieve national reconciliation which will stabilize the situation before and after the election of a constituent assembly.

Time is running out. Therefore, it is necessary for the United Nations, cochairmen of the Paris International Conference, and countries signing the Cambodian peace agreement to promptly take a strict measure to avoid the Paris agreement from falling into the Khmer Rouge's game.

Sihanouk Requests Confirmation of KR Refusal

BK2501144693 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1330 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Here is a message from His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk to His Excellency Khieu Samphan, chairman of the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK]:

Mr. Chairman: According to a number of newspapers, the PDK condemns both the presidential elections and the legislative elections to be held simultaneously in May 1993.

I am well aware of the PDK's explanations in condemning the upcoming elections to be organized by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. There is no need for your excellency to provide all those explanations to me again.

However, I would like to ask your excellency to urgently send me in writing a confirmation of your condemnation against the coming presidential elections in Cambodia in which I will also take part as a candidate for the post of Cambodian president.

Moreover, by rejecting the UNTAC-organized elections to be held in May 1993, the PDK will turn our beloved Cambodian motherland into a divided country, clearly dividing it into two parts: one part belonging to the PDK is about 20 percent of our country; and another part is a non-Khmer Rouge Cambodia.

I would like to ask your excellency to please inform me in writing whether the PDK also agrees with this clear partition of our unfortunate motherland.

Please accept my highest regards and profound love.

[Dated] Beijing, 24 January 1993

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

Khieu Samphan Reaffirms PDK Election Stance

BK2601032793 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 0100 GMT 26 Jan 93

["25 January Statement of His Excellency Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, PDK, and member of the Supreme National Council, reaffirming the PDK's stance on elections in Cambodia;" place not given—recorded]

[Text] Respected and beloved friends, cadres, and male and female combatants of the PDK; dear compatriots: In the current situation where elections in Cambodia are noisily talked about, I believe that it is necessary to reaffirm the PDK's position as follows:

1. The PDK, like our entire people and nation, longs for a national government that has support from the people and sufficient and full power to run the country to allow our Cambodia to recover peace, independence, and national reconciliation. Also, this will enable our country to become stable, thereby allowing people from all walks of life to live and earn a living safely. As such, we imperatively need the genuinely free, just, and democratic elections.

2. We have set up the Cambodian National Union Party and mapped out the party's political platform (?in the spirit) to take part in the elections and in the nation's political life with the aim of jointly implementing the Paris 23 October 1991 accord as a component of the nation. We have neither the intention of seizing (?exclusive) power nor opposing the genuinely free and democratic elections. Should we object to the elections, the entire nation and the whole world would be absolutely against us, so we will be dissolved like salt in water or wax exposed to the sun. Therefore, it is not possible for us to act this way, and, also, we have no intention of doing so.

3. However, are there in the current situation enough favorable conditions for our Cambodian nation and people and diverse political parties to take part in the genuinely free and democratic elections? His Excellency [H.E.] Akashi, UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] head, has admitted that the conditions do not exist yet. The climate of political terrorism is widespread across the country, including the cities and countryside. And hitmen have broken into residences of members of various political parties and used hatchets to split their heads and massacre their families in broad daylight. The Phnom Penh regime installed by the Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] has stirred up cloudbursts at will, and Yuon settlers have also continued flowing into Cambodia unchecked. There are already more than two million old and new Yuon settlers, including cadres of the Yuon army, Yuon Communist Party, Yuon young pioneer alliance, and Yuon mass organizations who supervise those settlers and control the state authority of their puppets from top to village echelons. Over one million Yuon settlers are holding Cambodian identity cards, and they will participate in the elections as well.

Have the members of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and Khmer People's National Liberation Front Parties, who have been victimized by political terrorism, done anything against the Paris accord? These political parties have only demanded that the Paris accord be correctly implemented and that conditions be created for correct elections. Only because of these demands, the Yuon and their puppets have tossed hand grenades and used hatchets to kill party members and their families in broad daylight. What is the cause of this? It is because the Yuon do not want the implementation of the Paris accord and the holding of genuinely free and democratic elections. The Yuon's strategy is to continue invading, occupying, and swallowing Cambodia. And those who disturb their strategy will be eliminated no matter what.

4. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, in his statements dated 13 and 14 December 1992 and 7 January 1993, summed up the situation in our country when he said it is utterly dark. This is because the Paris 23 October 1991 accord has not been correctly and meticulously implemented, especially the following essential clauses:

a. The SNC is not allowed the role as sole source of power in Cambodia during the transition;
b. There is no verification and control of the complete withdrawal of all categories of Yuon aggressor forces from Cambodia; and
c. There is no supervision and control of the five important ministries of the puppet regime.

UNTAC has not cared about finding measures to eliminate the root cause of the problem to allow the Paris 23 October accord, especially the above three provisions, to be implemented correctly and meticulously, but it has pushed for the elections instead.

5. Although general opinion and UNTAC Head H.E. Akashi himself have acknowledged that conditions do not yet sufficiently exist, H.E. Akashi and others continue to insist on pushing for the elections. They argue that UNTAC's mandate is nearly finished and that UNTAC does not have enough money to stay longer in Cambodia. Do those advancing such arguments understand the goal of UNTAC's mission in Cambodia? UNTAC has a well-defined mission that it has to be accountable for, meaning it came here to verify and control the implementation of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord.

The objective of the Paris accord is to put an end to the Yuon war of aggression in Cambodia, thus allowing the country to regain peace and independence within its territorial boundaries. Has the objective already been achieved? If the Paris accord's goal has not yet been realized, who is the cause of this failure? Is it because of the Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces' making great sacrifices in their tenacious and arduous national liberation struggle, the Yuon aggressors and their puppets, or UNTAC, which has not correctly performed its tasks? Only with these questions can people sufficiently see who is wrong, who is right, and who has refused to execute the Paris 23 October 1991 accord.

The Yuon continue to invade Cambodia, the Yuon puppets continue to stir up cloudbursts at will, and one persists in wanting the Cambodian people to sit idle and cross their hands waiting for their death. The Cambodian people can never accept this.

There is nothing clear-cut in the second phase or in the elections. So what is the purpose of such elections? It is certainly not for Cambodia to recover independence, peace, and national reconciliation. Such elections are aimed only at legitimizing the perpetual Yuon invasion and occupation of Cambodia and putting Cambodian national resistance forces and the PDK to death.

Chea Sim Receives Indonesian Envoy 21 Jan

BK2201055193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, National Assembly, and National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, received in audience H.E. Taufic Sudarno, Indonesian representative to Cambodia, at the office of the CPP Central Committee on the morning of 21 January. H.E. Taufic told H.E. Chea Sim that Indonesian President Suharto had expressed great concern over the deadlock of the Paris accord's implementation that has dragged on thus far.

He disclosed that, as the Nonaligned Movement chairman, Mr. Suharto had asked Mr. Ali Alatas to strive, with all possible means and in conjunction with the four Cambodian parties, to promote the search for peace in keeping with the latter's function as the cochairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia. He indicated that to coordinate the positions of the contending Cambodian parties, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas would arrive in Phnom Penh on 22 January for a meeting with the State of Cambodia [SOC] party following his discussion with Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing and talks with Prince Ranariddh and Khieu Samphan in Bangkok. The Indonesian representative pointed out that the Beijing communique on the SOC's proposal to hold a presidential election on 5 April had been endorsed by the ASEAN states which had also agreed on Prince Norodom Sihanouk's candidacy in the forthcoming election.

In his reply, H.E. Chea Sim happily welcomed the efforts by Indonesia in the Cambodian peace process. He reaffirmed that the SOC would continue to fully implement the Paris peace accord and to unswervingly follow the prince head of state in his mission of bringing about national reconciliation and rebuilding the motherland.

Prospect of Peace Accord Implementation Viewed

BK2301063893 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0407 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Jan. 23—The Australian and Indonesian Foreign Ministers began three-day visits here Friday, saying Cambodia's peace plan is not yet dead despite the Khmer Rouge's decision to boycott U.N.-run elections, reports AFP.

The radical guerrillas had further hardened their stance in a morning radio broadcast, calling the elections a "trick" aimed at keeping the Phnom Penh Government in power.

But Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, one of the key architects of the 1991 Paris accords which formally ended 13 years of Cambodian civil war, said the announcement "doesn't in any way inhibit the capacity of the elections to proceed on schedule."

"I don't think there's any reason to doubt the viability of the process as a whole as a result of it," Evans said.

The peace agreeement charges the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the largest peacekeeping operation in the world, with holding general elections throughout the country before May 1993.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, describing his meeting Thursday with Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan in Bangkok, said the faction still believed that invading Vietnamese forces occupied Cambodia and that the peace accords could not be implemented without more power being given to the factions rather than UNTAC.

The Vietnamese Embassy here released a statement reiterating that all Vietnamese troops withdrew in 1989.

"I pointed out that while some of their grievances, some of their complaints and demands, were legitimate, all sides have tried to meet or overcome some of their more legitimate demands," Alatas said.

"Some other views and actions were clearly beyond the purview of the Paris agreements and could not be fulfilled," he added.

Alatas said he was continuing "efforts to try once more to see whether we can find a way out of the impasse in which we find ourselves in the implementation of the Paris agreements."

Both foreign ministers met Phnom Penh Government Premier Hun Sen separately and discussed the feasibility of dates for upcoming presidential elections and elections without the Khmer Rouge, the recent spate of political violence, and UNTAC's role in Cambodia, Hun Sen's senior advisor Khieu Kanharit said.

Alatas said "it was better not to request the expulsion of the Khmer Rouge from the whole process," as Hun Sen had previously asked the Indonesian Foreign Minister to do, Khieu Kanharit said.

Evans met UNTAC Chief Yasushi Akashi and expressed his support for the new U.N. efforts to curb political violence, U.N. Spokesman Eric Falt said.

Alatas was expected to meet Akashi on Saturday, and both were scheduled to leave Sunday morning.

The radical Khmer Rouge have steadfastly refused to comply with the U.N. plan to hold elections, and have turned to capturing peacekeepers who venture into the zones they control, slaughtering ethnic Vietnamese immigrants and charging UNTAC with collaborating with the "Vietnames aggressors" to annex the country.

Ceasefire violations between Phnom Penh government troops and Khmer Rouges guerrillas continue in the northwest and center of Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge refusal to participate in elections would likely result in the de facto partitioning of the country, as those in up to 20 percent of Cambodia would not be allowed to vote.

"Partition is perthaps an overstatement," Evans said, "the situation we do have to contemplate is the possibility that after the election some proportion of Cambodian territory is not being effectively controlled by those parties contesting in the elections". Evans said an estimated 500,000 to 600,000 of Cambodia's nine million people live in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas, and that the new Cambodian Government would be faced with the problems of a built-in insurgency movement.

But Alatas said the partitioning would no longer allow the "comprehensive settlement" of the Cambodian conflict that the Paris accords were supposed to represent.

"Partitioning is something nobody wants, but now, however, time is running short," the Indonesian Foreign Minister said.

Tie Banh Visits Siem Reap Combatants, People

BK2401092593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] A high-ranking party-state delegation of the State of Cambodia [SOC] led by His Excellency [H.E.] General Tie Banh, member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, defense minister, and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, accompanied by Cham Prasit, deputy minister attached to the Council of Ministers Office; and U Aohat, deputy planning minister, recently visited the people, authorities, monks, and members of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

After arrival in Siem Reap Province and meeting with provincial leaders, the delegation visited the people, CPAF members, monks, and authorities in Banteay Srei District.

Meeting the officials, personnel, people, monks, and armymen in Banteay Srei District, H.E. Gen. Tie Banh informed them of the situation regarding the implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement by clearly stressing the stand of the SOC saying that it has sincerely implemented the agreement and closely cooperated with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and will always do so in order to seek peace for the Cambodian people and nation. He also spoke on the Khmer Rouge, which have continued to shun the agreement and intensified their shellings of the SOC Armed Forces, people, and monasteries, adding that they recently fired on a house and UNTAC team in Siem Reap district.

Moreover, they have continued to transport ammunition and support equipment to provinces, such as Kompong Thom, Battambang, and Siem Reap and a number of outlying areas inside the country, in an attempt to launch military offensives against our SOC. This clearly showed that the Khmer Rouge have not abided by the agreement. Some factions have declared their full support for the agreement, but in reality, they have created obstacles barring the process to seek peace in Cambodia. Moreover, the Khmer Rouge have flagrantly violated the agreement and caused obstacles to the peacekeeping mission of the UNTAC forces.

On the same day, the delegation went on to visit people, CPAF members, monks, and authorities in Angkor Thom district where it met and was accorded a warm and cordial welcome by people, monks, and the Armed Forces. The delegation also distributed some gifts to people, monks, and Armed Forces there.

In addition to meeting and giving advice to the Armed Forces, people, and monks everywhere it went, the delegation brought aid in contribution to building and developing various important buildings in those localities, such as schools and hospitals. This clearly reflected the CPP and SOC Government's great care for the people's material and mental livelihood.

After ending its visit in Kompong Thom district, on the next day, the delegation went to visit cadres in various other districts and in the province itself where the head of the delegation also exhorted all officers and men to enhance their spirit of fortitude and strictly abide by the agreement. However, they should uphold their right to self-defense in order to check all Khmer Rouge attempts to infiltrate our areas to plunder and massacre people.

The delegation also presented food and gifts to monks at Thmei and (Itsaram) monasteries in Siem Reap Province and distributed aid for building a temple hall and school for the people and their children.

Everywhere it went, the delegation was accorded with warm and cordial welcome by the people, monks, and

Armed Forces in an atmosphere of joy and close unity permeated with hope for peace which will certainly come about within the near future.

Tie Banh Greets SRV Counterpart on New Year

BK2301143593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 23 Jan 93

["New Year Greetings Message" from General Tie Banh, defense minister, to General Doan Khue, Vietnamese defense minister; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On behalf of the officers and combatants of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] and in my own name, I would like to convey to you and, through you, to the officers and combatants at all levels of the Vietnamese People's Army [VPA] my sincere sentiments and best wishes.

For ages, the VPA has heroically exhibited fortitude in its tenacious struggle to sail across the difficult phase of both political and economic reforms in order to rebuild a Vietnam with advanced civilization, complete freedom, and social development. Also, the VPA has sacrificed its flesh and blood to liberate Cambodia and the Cambodian people from the genocidal Pol Pot regime. Before and since the signing of the Paris accord, the Vietnamese party and government and the VPA have continued to dedicate their attention to sincerely making a moral and material contribution to seeking peace and social progress for the Cambodian people, thereby ensuring peace in Southeast Asia.

The Cambodian people and the CPAF always feel thankful and grateful to the heroic VPA for its constant support for the cause of our motherland's independence and peace.

Once again, on the occasion of the new year, we would like to extend greetings to you and your family as well as the Vietnamese people and the VPA. May all of you have the best of health, zealous physical strength, and longevity and achieve new, still greater successes in the implementation of the present supreme tasks. May the relations of friendship and solidarity between our two armies and peoples steadfastly and eternally consolidate and develop. And may you enjoy good health and happiness and succeed in the performance of your supreme tasks.

Your excellency, please, accept my highest regards.

Public Health Aid Accord Signed With Japan

BK2301070893 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, and H.E. Yukio Imagawa, Japanese ambassador to Cambodia, signed an agreement on Japan's assistance to the SOC in the public health sector worth 517 million yen or $4.1 million at the Chan pavilion in the Royal Palace on the morning of 22 January. H.E. Ieng Muli, vice chairman of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party and SNC member, was also present.

Consumer Prices Reportedly Rise 177 Percent

BK2501122893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 25 (AFP)—Economic indicators released Monday by the United Nations showed Cambodia's consumer prices rose 177 percent in December from the same period in 1991.

But prices remained more or less stable in the final three months of 1992, rising three percent in December, the report said.

Major items of consumption, such as rice, fish and chicken rose 12 to 14 percent in the month of December, while other food items such as dried fish and vegetables declined in price.

The price of gold rose 10 percent in December and the value of the local currency, the riel, dropped 11 percent as the U.S. dollar rose on the international market and the government was forced to issue new currency due to "pressure in settling previous end of the year salary arrears," it said.

The riel fell to [number indistinct] to the dollar by the end of December, the U.N. report said.

The weaker riel caused a price increase in imports used daily by Cambodians. Clothes prices rose seven percent, while the prices of beer, detergent and charcoal rose 17 percent.

Customs revenue accounted for 11.6 billion riels for the month, bringing total customs revenue for 1992 to more than 79 billion riels, the U.N. report said.

Indonesia

Alatas Urges KR To Accept Peace Process

BK2601070493 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas says his recent efforts to persuade the Khmer Rouge [KR] to comply with the peace process in Cambodia are final. Therefore, he called on those who had not accepted the peace process to change their mind so a breakthrough to the current impasse can be achieved. Minister Alatas said this to reporters in Jakarta when he answered their questions on the outcome of his recent visits to the PRC, Thailand, and Cambodia. He said the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] will continue to implement the peace process, jointly agreed by the concerned parties, even though certain groups still cannot accept the plan.

Meanwhile, Prince Sihanouk had called on the Pol Pot faction to take part in the UNTAC-supervised elections in May. In his letter to Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, Prince Sihanouk said a boycott by the Khmer Rouge would create disunity in Cambodia. Khieu Samphan was also urged to review his hardline stand, which is a major obstacle to the peace process in Cambodia.

Action Against Tankers' Owner, Operator Urged

BK2201162493 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Speaking in Jakarta today, (Markus Wauran), chairman of parliament's Commission X, said the Indonesian Government must take strong action against the owner and operator of the supertanker Maersk Navigator and the tanker Sanko Honour for causing pollution in the northern Sumatera and Aceh waters after the two tankers collided in an area west of Sabang yesterday. He said it is very hard to prevent pollution and environmental destruction in the surrounding waters because the spilled oil can spread very fast.

Meanwhile, the supertanker Maersk Navigator is still adrift about 120 miles west of Sabang. Sukardi, head of the Public Relations Division of the Directorate General of Sea Communications, said the supertanker is still ablaze and efforts to extinguish it are under way.

Aceh Fishermen Fear Possible Oil Slick

BK2601092593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Fishermen in Aceh fear a possible oil slick from the supertanker that collided with another vessel in Sabang waters last week following reports that the burning Norwegian-flagged supertanker has been towed back to Aceh waters. It is feared that thousands of fishermen in the region will lose their livelihood if the oil slick occurs in Aceh waters. According to Ibrahim, a fisherman in Greater Aceh District, many fish species are usually so afraid of oil that they will move far away and only return about six months later. Units of the Aceh Marine Police have been patrolling the region since last weekend to protect fishermen from possible worsening pollution.

Meanwhile, Sabang Naval Base Commander Navy Lieutenant Colonel Ain Darmosusilo said a 6-km-long, 300-meter-wide oil slick is approaching Indonesian waters.

Alatas Regrets G-7 Decision Omitting Suharto

BK2601013893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] The Indonesian Government regrets the stand adopted by the industrialized G-7 countries, which have ignored the Nonaligned Movement's desire to voice its views at the G-7 summit in Tokyo this year. Speaking to reporters in Jakarta on the G-7 countries' decision not to invite President Suharto in his capacity as Nonaligned Movement chairman to the G-7 summit, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the G-7 countries had erroneously interpreted the request to hold dialogues with industrialized countries as attempts to ask for economic assistance from them. Alatas added that the attitude of the G-7 countries had had a negative impact on the North-South dialogues.

Commenting on the outcome of his visits to the PRC, Thailand, and Cambodia in his efforts to speed up the peace process in Cambodia, Minister Alatas said his efforts to persuade the Khmer Rouge to comply with the peace process are final. The United Nations will continue to implement the peace plan in Cambodia through the UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] without the participation of those who disagree with the plan.

Finance Minister: No Devaluation of Rupiah

BK1201154993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The government will not devalue the rupiah because state revenues are currently smaller than the obligation to repay foreign debts. Finance Minister J.B. Sumarlin made these remarks when he answered a question during a seminar on the 1993-94 state budget in Jakarta today. Sumarlin said if the government decided to devalue the rupiah now, it would be burdened with more foreign debts. Such a decision will also affect domestic prices and create more burdens in the country's economic development. The government will continue to be consistent and transparent in its economic policies. The minister added the government will also continue to attract foreign investors to invest in Indonesia by creating a healthy investment climate.

National Commission on Human Rights Not Required

BK1401131693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1012 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 14 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia needs not to set up a national commission on human rights because the House of Representatives (DPR) has now a Commission on Human Rights, said deputy chairman of the house's Foreign, Defense and Information Commission Aminullah Ibrahim here on Thursday.

He warned that the task of the national commission on human rights and that of the House Commission for Human Rights would overlap.

He said the most important thing is to make the existing Commission on Human Rights function as effectively as possible.

The parliamentarian was commenting on proposals as to whether Indonesia needs to establish a national commission on human rights which will be charged with, among other things, observing the exercise of human rights in the country.

He maintained that the House Commission on Human Rights has since its establishment in August 1992 anticipated the exercise of human rights in the country.

He acknowledged however that the commission has not yet functioned effectively. The Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Board (BKSAP) in the DPR has now continued improving the commission, he added.

The commission will likely change its name into a forum for human right devotees with members coming from all commissions in the DPR, he said.

He disagreed with the idea that the national commission on human rights is established by the government.

Foreign Ministry Publishes East Timor History

BK2201095093 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0800 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 22 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published a book which contains detailed history of East Timor since the Portuguese colonial period until its integration into Indonesia.

The book, entitled "East Timor: Building for the Future," is published as a reference book for those seeking to obtain complete description of the newest Indonesian province which integrated into Indonesia in 1976, said Suteja Kartawijaja, chief of the ministry's Foreign Affairs Information Section, here on Friday.

He said that debates on East Timor have coloured the world forums in the last 20 years.

The volume of reports by mass media has increased in recent days, particularly before and after a meeting between the foreign ministers of Indonesia and Portugal in New york on December 17.

The world has focused more attention on East Timor following the November 12 incident at the Santa Cruz Cemetery in Dili, and the capture of FRETILIN [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] leader Xanana Gusmao recently, said Suteja.

This is an indication of the high attention being paid by the international communities to East Timor.

Unclear description of the integration history of East Timor would give wrong perception both to the Indonesian people and members of the world community, he added.

Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the book which contains the history, people, culture, political structure and development of East Timor, Suteja concluded.

Laos

Refugees Return From Thailand

BK2201084693 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] A batch of 40 Lao refugees residing in the camps in Na Pho, Chiang Kham District, Chiang Rai Province, Thailand, were voluntarily repatriated to their homeland on 19 January.

The refugees were welcomed home by officials of the labor and social welfare service of Vientiane Municipality, and representatives of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees representation office in Laos.

The repatriates are natives of Hatsaifong District, Saithani District, Sisatthanak District, Nasaithong District, all in Vientiane Municipality; Xieng Khouang Province; and Bolikhamsai Province.

Medical Cooperation With Thai Province Cited

BK2201103493 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] From 18-19 January, a combined Lao-Thai medical team gave checkups and treatment to people in Savannakhet Province who were suffering from the ear, nose, and throat diseases.

The Thai side comprised doctors from charitable foundations and rural areas and was led by the deputy governor of Thailand's northeastern Province of Mukdahan, while the Lao team was fielded with doctors and medical cadres from the Savannakhet Provincial Hospital.

During the two-day joint medical operations, the combined two-nation mission successfully gave medical tests and treatment to a total of 268 patients. Of that number, 130 were suffering sore throats.

The medical cooperation between Laos' Savannakhet Province and Thailand's Mukdahan Province is a good model. Therefore, cooperation will be further expanded in order to provide medical personnel from both sides with opportunities to meet and exchange experiences in the fields of medical science and technology. Furthermore, the cooperation will also gradually enhance a new quality of friendly relations at the local level between the two provinces, as well as at the national level between the two countries.

Friendship Association Visits SRV Embassy

BK2401092293 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] On the evening of 21 January, Maisouk Saisompheng, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction Central Committee, and chairman of the Laos-Vietnam Friendship Association

[LVFA], led members of the LVFA Executive Committee to call on the SRV Embassy in Vientiane to convey greetings on the occasion of the traditional new year festival of Vietnam.

In the name of the LVFA Executive Committee, Maisouk Saisompheng verbally extended to the Vietnamese Embassy staff best wishes for their traditional new year and hailed great achievements attained by Vietnamese people over the past year. He also expressed his great satisfaction with the incessant intensification of the relations of friendship, comprehensive cooperation, and special solidarity between the Lao and Vietnamese peoples.

On the same occasion, SRV Ambassador to Laos Nguyen Xuan, on behalf of the embassy staff, expressed sincere thanks to Maisouk Saisompheng and his party. Additionally, the Vietnamese envoy expressed his confidence that the peoples of the two countries will achieve ever-greater victories in the new year.

Finally, Maisouk Saisompheng and the Vietnamese ambassador conveyed best wishes to the party and state leaders and the peoples of the two countries, Laos and Vietnam.

PASASON Editorial Marks 44th Army Anniversary

BK2001110793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 20 Jan 93

["Editorial" from the 20 January issue of PASASON: "May the Lao People's Army Continue To Develop and Strengthen Consistently;" presented on 20 January, the 44th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Army]

[Text] Respected listeners: Today, 20 January 1993, is the 44th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Army [LPA]. Through 44 years on a historical path of national construction and struggle, the LPA has been awarded with progress and development. At present, it has several strong combat units. In the first 30 years, the Army was able to fulfill its historical tasks and successfully liberated the country in 1975. More than a decade after the national liberation, it has magnificently defended the country's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as well as the fruits of national construction and development.

Because of complicated variations in the current international situation, our country has also made changes in several aspects. Amidst the so-called international situation, the hostile forces have not yet relinquished their intention to destroy the fruits of our revolution and our people's building and development of the country. Therefore, the duties to defend the nation and safeguard peace and security are still significantly necessary.

To smoothly carry out the tasks of defending and building the country and to maintain national stability, the important source is the people. The people are a source of power in the fields of economy, national defense, and public security maintenance. Therefore, for the future, the multiethnic Lao people are objectively needed to continue to help build the Army to be able to firmly and steadily develop. The people need to love the Army as in the saying: The Army and the people are like the forest and water.

In contributing to building the strength of the Army, apart from bringing prosperity and progress to the national economy, the people also have other important duties. First, they must encourage their children to carry out obligations in various Armed Forces to defend the nation and maintain peace and security. Secondly, they must take good care of retired combatants in all localities. In addition, they must also attentively organize effective systems to safeguard peace and security in their respective villages or localities; encourage the masses and everyone in the Army to adhere to their responsibilities in developing the economy, culture, and society; and must be closely tied to the tasks of national defense and public security maintenance.

All these are essential factors for our Army and people to march forward to achieve greater successes than ever before.

On this important historic occasion of the LPA, the multiethnic Lao people all over the country would like to express their gratitude to the LPA and wish fraternal military officers and LPA men to continue to develop and strenthen the Army consistently.

Defense Minister Discusses Duties With Officers

BK1701054893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Yesterday at the Club-A meeting hall of the National Defense Ministry, a meeting was held by more than 200 active and retired senior military officers. At the meeting, Lieutenant General Choummali Saignason, national defense minister, delivered an address to the officers.

In his address, the minister explained the functioning, growth, and development of the Lao People's Army [LPA] over the past year. He stressed that the LPA consistently and ceaslessly enhanced its fine traditions and cooperated with the multiethnic people in carrying out the two strategic tasks of defending and building the country so as to build and make more prosperous and stable the new popular democractic regime.

Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason noted the glorious nature and traditions of our LPA—the Army which has been built, trained, and educated by the party. He said: The Army has been created by the people and fought for the interests of the multiethnic people. The Army is the sharp tool of the party and remains boundlessly faithful to the party, country, people, and new popular dermocratic regime. True to its nature, the Army has further enhanced its fine traditions which have long been forged and tested in actual deeds in the arduous revolutionary struggle. Firmly adhering to the said nature and traditions, the Army must firmly engage in restructuring activities as follows: Our Army must strive to consolidate national defense and public security maintenance work in a comprehensive manner among the entire masses at the grassroots level, to set up a strong field position for national defense and public security maintenance work in all localities, to actively consolidate and raise higher the standard and quality of all national defense forces, to firmly coordinate the economic and national defense work, to build and strengthen the entire potential of our country, to resolutely smash all subversive activities of the enemies, and to safeguard and enhance the revolutionary fruits, thereby contributing to turning Southeast Asia into a zone of genuine peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation.

On the same day, a lecture on army traditions was also held at the meeting hall of the LPA General Political Department. The meeting was attended by more than 100 officers and soldiers from various units and services.

Editorial Marks International New Year

BK1901070793 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 1 Jan 93 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "New Year, New Luck"]

[Text] Today, 1 January 1993, is the international New Year. This year, the international New Year has come to us at a time when our nation has won achievements in many fields as our people have enjoyed happiness, worked together in harmony to defend the country, and joined in developing the popular democratic system by turning out to vote in the election of representatives to the third National Assembly, the election of which notable success has been achieved. On the occasion of this international New Year, our editorial staff wishes all listeners as well as all multiethnic Lao people good health, happiness, new luck, and new, still greater achievements.

During the past old year of 1992, our Lao nation and people faced many types of trials, such as natural disasters and the failure to achieve an agricultural production target, as a result of which people in many localities are likely to suffer a shortage of rice. Besides, as a result of changes in the world and regional situations, certain areas of our country were infiltrated and bad elements created disturbances. However, those consequences cannot obstruct our socioeconomic development and the development of the popular democratic system in our country. With the fine traditions of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party which has led the Lao people to overcome all trials and difficulties throughout the past old year of 1992, our Lao nation did not come to a standstill. Rather, it continued to advance and achieved developments in all respects.

In the agricultural field, though the rice production target was not fulfilled, considerable success was achieved in planting other subsidiary crops to compensate the loss; the production of goods in rural areas as part of the implementation of the family economy was outstandingly developed in many areas, such as in Vientiane prefecture and in Savannakhet, Vientiane, Champassak, Luang Prabang, Saravane, and Oudomsai provinces. As a result, the living conditions of the multiethnic Lao people have been improved step by step.

In the industrial, handicrafts, trade, and tourism fields, new steps of development were also achieved. There was a considerable increase in volume of the production and export of goods, in particular clothing, electricity, and other industrial products. The trading activities, the communications and transportation service, the traveling of the people from one province to another, and the exchanges of visits between our people and the peoples of neighboring countries, such as Vietnam, China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia, increased enormously. This has brought about the expansion of cross-border trading. It has also resulted in further strengthening the friendship and mutual understanding between our Lao people and the peoples of the various neighboring countries. Following our people's promotion of association and friendship relations with the peoples of the neighboring countries and the exchanges of friendship visits between our party and state leaders and government leaders and heads of state of many countries, the status, prestige, and influence of our Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] have been raised to an ever-higher level in the international and regional arenas. This has been seen through the fact that many countries have shown respect toward and been confident in the stability of the LPDR. More and more countries have also expressed their desire to invest in our country.

In addition, our national defense and public security forces have also been consolidated with enhanced quality. They are capable of adequately maintaining public tranquillity and quickly checking all schemes by bad elements to create disturbances. Our multiethnic Lao people have enhanced political awareness with each passing day. They have maintained unity and harmony within the national community, and fought together to defend and build the country in a spirit of perseverance. This has been shown through the fact that our people jointly combatted natural disasters for a better life. They joined in carrying out the educational, public health, cultural, and social work. Our people joined in successfully promoting and expanding the popular democratic system at a high level by turning out to cast their votes to elect members of the third National Assembly. All these are the brief illustration of the praiseworthy victory and achievements that our nation and people won in the past year of 1992.

Nevertheless, 1992 was a year which was recorded in the history of our country. It was the year in which our nation and people suffered the loss of their great, beloved, and respected leader, President Kaysone Phomvihan. It was considered a great and very painful loss of our party, state, and people. The more we are mournful for the demise of President Kaysone Phomvihan, the more endeavor we should exert to build ourselves, to maintain unity and harmony with the multiethnic people, to be devoted to the cause of the late president, and to continue to successfully fulfill it in order to build a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous Laos.

In the new year of 1993, we still have difficulties, both subjective and objective, in the fields of production to compensate the loss caused by the natural disasters, ideological work, business operations, construction, and other areas. Nevertheless, with the tradition of talented leadership of the party, with the strength of solidarity among the multiethnic people in the national community, together with the correct open-door line and policy of the party and state, it is certain that our people will be able to overcome all the difficulties and achieve success in building and developing the country to make it become ever stronger and more prosperous in the new year. We wish all listeners and people good luck and victory throughout the new year.

Philippines

Iraqi Embassy Denies Link With Bomb Incident

HK2601033093 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Vic Vega]

[Text] American embassy officials disowned yesterday a police report on an alleged foiled bomb attack at the embassy building on Roxas Blvd., Manila.

"The bomb was actually a World War II 81-mm artillery shell that was dug up during an excavation project last Sunday," an embassy official told REUTERS in an interview.

The excavation project is to strengthen the seawall at the embassy compound facing Manila bay, the report said. When the bomb was brought out and exposed to the sun, the phosphorous ignited and gave off smoke, the official added.

The Iraqi embassy in Manila also issued a statement denying any involvement in the alleged foiled bomb attack.

A letter sent to the Manila Bulletin signed by Iraqi ambassador to the Philippines Ni'mah Faris Husayn said "Iraq is against such act and has no interest to do any terrorism act against the embassies of the United States of America or any other countries around the world".

Meanwhile, Senior Supt. [Superintendent] Romeo Odi, head of the Western Police District Command (WPDC) ordered tight security on all American buildings and establishments in Manila.

Odi said he ordered the deployment of plain-clothes policemen to keep an eye on U.S.-owned buildings and business establishments in Manila against possible attack.

Talks With Military Rebels To Start 28 Jan

HK2601031793 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Ben R. Rosario]

[Excerpt] Separate negotiating panels between the government and military rebels identified with the late President Ferdinand Marcos will start formal peace talks at the Philippine Heart Center on Thursday [28 January], the National Unification Commission (NUC) announced yesterday.

The NUC said the opening ceremonies for the peace negotiations will start at 10 a.m. with the government to be represented by the same panel now talking with the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan [National Revolutionary Alliance—RAM].

The government panel, headed by Prof. Alfredo Tadiar, will meet its RAM counterpart led by former brigadier general Edgardo Abenina on Friday to start peace negotiations which formally opened last week. [passage omitted]

Honasan's Group Announces Talking Points

HK2601123893 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Former Colonel Gringo Honasan of Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance [RAM] today announced the five talking points his group will submit during the peace talks with the National Unification Commission [NUC].

Among the subjects to be pushed by the rightist rebels are electoral reforms to ensure orderly and clean elections, complete government reforms that would lead to efficient and honest service to the people, equitable economic development, proper attention to national security, and creation of jobs for the unemployed.

The talking points, to be presented by RAM to the government panel headed by NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac, will comprise the rightists' initial position when the peace talks begin.

Communist Leader Interviewed on Strategy

HK2001064893 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 20 Jan 93 p 5

[Second of a two-part interview with Ricardo Reyes, allegedly "secretary general" of the Communist Party of the Philippines, by Chay Florentino-Hofilena; place and date not given]

[Text] **Conclusion**

How do you preserve the ideology? Theory has yet to be proven true, but is already being changed. Is this not a case of mere impatience over what is supposed to be a protracted war?

The Marxist ideology, if it is to be very consistent with its origins—especially scientific origins—is a scientific ideology. It must keep up with the times and it is subject to reexamination itself...Mabuti pa iyong Catholic Church nakaka [The Catholic Church is better since it can] adjust, although medyo mabagal [a little slower]. But any scientific ideology must learn to keep up with the times. There are certain basic postulates of course which must be maintained, otherwise the ideology loses its identity: one, that the wealth and the power of society must increasingly be possessed by that society, specifically by the majority of the society. It's the people empowered, the people owning, the people controlling the means of production, their destinies, decision-making in that society, how to dispose of the products of their society—iyan iyong [that is the] basic theory of socialism.

How to go about it, ang sabi ni Marx, wala akong blueprint [Marx said, I have no blueprint]. You just go through the motions of trying to find out in the real life experiences of society, how we can achieve that. Baka nga meron pa siyang thinking na talagang hindi maaabot talaga iyong talagang perfect situation. [He might have also thought that a perfect situation can never be achieved...] but at least in order to uphold the humanist belief that the human person must be able to master his own destiny, you must try to keep on looking for forms that devolve the power of society upon the people...But what has happened is that the model defined is based on Stalinist Russia and Maoist China. Iyon ang kinakapitan. Ngayon, any changes diyan, iyon daw ang nagbigay ng mga problems. Eh, mahirap nang sundin iyan. [It becomes the stronghold. Now, any changes there can cause problems. Then, it becomes difficult to follow].

When you speak of the need for more democracy within the movement, what do you mean?

There was this very understandable negative reaction to the draconian measures adopted by the so-called rectification campaign. Now why draconian? Biruin ma [Imagine] all horizontal discussions are banned...Discussions about issues of socialism, militarism etc—these are the real big issues in the movement and which affect everybody—these issues can only be discussed under the control and supervision of the higher body...Even the mere act of talking with people—in fact, they drew up a list. Ikinalat nila iyan sa ilang mga-legal [they spread it to several] democratic organisations like KMU (Kilusang Mayo Uno), LFS (League of Filipino Students), sinabihan nila iyan [They told such groups]—we have here a list of six people, do not invite them to speaking engagements, do not invite them in any forum and do not talk to them. Kaming tatlo nandoon [We three were there] plus three others in the underground.

And there was this opposition book circulating around-...There was this memorandum again just last week banning the reading (of a compilation of articles on the Left, that include Sison's Reaffirm Our Basic Principles and Rectify Errors, but mostly devoted on papers espousing contrary views).

Sa [In] democratic centralism, there is a major procedure that is being promoted and that is, before you make a decision, you throw the question to the membership first for discussion and then after exhaustive discussion, the representative leadership will decide. So there is what we call from the masses to the masses...You can make a categorical statement that it was not really practiced at all. Ang mas madalas mangyari [What usually happens is] if there are developments, the leadership will sit down, will analyze, will decide, will make pertinent decisions and resolutions and then they will go down to unify, the term is unification. What do you mean by unification? Kailangan ngayon makumbinse mo. Kung ang frame of mind mo na lang agad ay limited doon—diyan na pumapasok ang lahat ng undemocratic methods. At doon din nagkakaroo n ng katakur-takot na conflicts [You should be able to commence now. If your frame of mind is limited—here is where all undemoncratic methods emerge, and a lot of comfliots will arise.] What if people below do not want to accept? So pag hindi mo na makumbinse [if you will not be able to convince], you resort to organizational measures like discipline.

There is another thing. Factions are banned, or anything close to a faction. For instance, if there are debates, if there are differences, you are not supposed to consolidate. People who take a similar position are not supposed to consolidate their position as a group because that would be a faction—even for the purpose of just refining their ideas. There is a long tradition in the national democratic movement against that, a long tradition of hostility to that practice.

The biggest issue of democracy in the movement is access of the membership to information ... There is that bias that so much information about the organization is limited to the higher bodies. Iyan ay isnag malaking-malaking issue [That is a very big issue] of democracy ... We always want unanimous decisions or consensual types. But there are hard decisions that have to be made in the course of leading a social movement ... so the procedure of voting, having a majority and a minority on this question, should be encouraged. The overstress on consensuality makes it very difficult for a minority to have its place.

The institutionalization of individual rights within the movement is one other feature of democracy—the right of the individual vis-a-vis the orgnaization. Pag binigay mo totally ang sarili mo sa organization, kung wala kang rights at one day nakaaway ka ng leadership ... ikaw ang pinaka kawawang figure ... Hindi ka makaaalis [If you give yourself totally to the organization, if you do not have rights and one day you might have a rift with the leadership ... you shall be the most pitiful figure ... you cannot get out], you cannot lead your own life pero nasa loob ka [but you are inside]. It can consume you.

You don't see the Party becoming more democratic so long as Joma has control over it?

Mukhang hindi namin makita [It seems we don't see it that way]. We've been trying hard these past three years—writing at first politely, with all due deference; then with increasing sharpness ... pero ang sagot sa amin [but the response to us], with increasing vehemnence. I was hoping that it would be bigger than all of us kaya sige lang, may interplay of ideas. Hindi ganoon ang nangyari. Puro pukpok yung matanda, eh, ang hirap. [and so let it be, there is an interplay of ideas. That is not what happened. There was always pressure from the old man, it was difficult.]

You accept that if the Party becomes increasingly democratic, it could become unwieldly and less effective?

Yes. But I still believe that for a revolution to succeed, there must be a party or parties because a party has more discipline that a simple loose movement ... Merong klaseng unity na dapat nawi-wield ng Party, otherwise sasabog siya [There is a kind of unity that the Party wields, otherwise it will 'explode']. But not at the expense of discussions, not at the expense of rights of individuals and not at the expense of the freedom of blocs to operate, and not at the expense of a majority-minority dynamism to evolve.

If the difference between you is very basic, how do you resolve it? Will the resolution lie with the formation of a separate group? What are the implications of this on your relations with other groups in the Philippine Left?

Parang bahay iyan na binuo mo for the past 23 years. Di syempre nandiyan lahat ng sentimyento, lahat ng emosyon. Pilipino tayo eh, ganyan tayo mag-isip. Tapos, iyon parang nakakabanggaan mo pa, iyong parang nagpundar ng bahay na iyon. Actually, agonizing process iyan. Hindi naman ganoon kasimple iyan. [It is like a house you built for the past 23 years. Of course, the sentiment and emotion are there. We are Filipino, we think like one. Then, the one you seem to bump against is the foundation of that house. It actually is an agonizing process.] Perhaps Americans or Europeans can say, "Let's split. To hell with you, aalis na lang kami, ano!" Pero dahil sa Pinoy tayo [we shall move out!" But since we are Filipinos], we share those values na hangga't maaari [that until possible] save the house from collapsing at mag-ayusan [reconcile]. And if we are truly Marxists, let's debate kaya nga ini-insist namin iyong [that is why we have insisted on] freedom to debate within the organization. Give the organization the widest lattitude for all members to debate ... and then arrive at a resolution that will propel the movement forward.

On the other hand, there is the possibility, the real possibility ... that a separate movement may emerge. Perhaps the broad Left or the entire Left is in a period of realignment, regrouping, reorganization. There is that possibility, a very strong possibility.

Do you see this happening in the next few years, within five years?

(Nodding) Ganoon ka [You are like that] immediate.

What will happen to the National Democrats?

There is an opposition within... and a division of opinions, division of views within the leadership. Ngayon, mayroong inner dynamics na nagaganap. Ang resolution diyan is [Now, an inner dynamic is happening. The resolution to that is that], one may get the upper hand and if that happens, everything will depend on the attitude of the minority. Kung sinong maging minority diyan, susunod ba iron doon o aalis na lang [Whoever the minority will be, will it follow or will it just go away]. The dynamic of the movement is something not a single individual can control... There are many... dynamic leaders below na hindi masyadong tali sa [that are not too tied to] traditions ng [of the] Communist Party of the Philippines when it was established in 1968. In other words, there may be even leaders who have more radical views than us and in due time, maybe in a matter of three or four months, laos na rin kami... Iyong FQS [expansion unknown] generation, reared kami by Jose Maria Sison [we would have also been out fashioned... the FQS generation, we were reared by Jose Maria Sison]. We practically learned our Marxism at his feet. Siya iyong leader namin; irong paradigm namin, siya, Kaya napaka-agonizing niyan. Noong dinadaanan namin iyan talagang nahihirapan kami dahil parang kami ang closest sa kanya. Pero yung susunod sa amin di naman ganoon... kaya hindi ko masabi kung ano ang mga possibilities [He was our leader; our paradigm. That is why it is so agonizing. When we experienced that stage, it was really difficult for us since he was closest to us. But those following us are not like that... that is why I cannot predict the possibilities].

Does this process you are going through constitute a weakening of the movement?

I think it's the reinvigoration of the movement. There are old, decadent structures that are giving way and new structures going up—vibrant, more dynamic, more in keeping with the times bearing the socialist vision, but more creative and more forward-looking. This may even be the key to winning back the younger generations. Kaya punung-puno rin naman ako ng pag-asa sa nangyayari [That is why I am filled with hope with what is happening].

Actually, baka transition figures lang kami. Baka hindi namin kayang pamunuan iyong susunod [We might only be transition figures. We might not be able to manage the next generation]. It is very sad because si Joma talaga [Joma really] could have been a great moral force in the Philippine Left Kung siya ang namuno ng [if he had led the] reform and renewal process, it would have been terrific. Unfortunately, he practically painted himself to a corner by taking a very dogmatic and scholastic position.

What are the chances of another plenum or Party Congress being held to resolve the issue once and for all?

I was told lately that they flatly rejected a new plenum.

Yorac: Social, Economic Justice Essential

HK1901125093 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] The country will achieve lasting peace only if the government brings about proper and humane justice and an improved national economy.

This was the statement of Haydee Yorac, chairperson of the National Unification Commission [NUC], in her speech at the General Peace Assembly at the Saint Louis Center in Baguio City. The assembly was attended by various peace advocates and members of conveners' groups from the Cordillera region.

Yorac said that statistics indicate that violence and criminality have worsened in the country because of injustices and the lack of values and proper leadership of most local and national officials.

She said the main objective of NUC is to bring about peace, not only with the various rebel groups in the country, but with the whole society.

Although she did not mention any breakthrough in the peace negotiations with the communist rebels, Yorac expressed satisfaction with the ongoing peace talks with the rightist group.

[Begin Yorac recording in English] Except for saying that, you know, we're really encouraged by the response to the public consultations. You know, even just long distance telephone calls asking questions about procedure, about locations or places where they might link up with the convener groups, and so on. My impression up to this point is that there is overwhelming community response to what we are doing. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the NUC has not yet specified the role of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army [CPLA] of Father Conrado Balweg in the framework of the peace process.

Yorac admitted that the NUC is unsure about how to treat the former rebel group because it is now considered a member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit [progovernment militia force]. But she said she will try to get the government to clarify the CPLA's status.

SFP Leader Explains Talking Points

HK2001125793 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Remarks by Jose Maria Zumel, leader of the Soldiers of the Filipino People, SFP, on the "ABC-DWET News program"; place and date not given; includes remarks by unidentified reporter—Zumel's remarks recorded in English]

[Text] [Reporter] When the government offered peace through negotiation, the group led by former General Jose Maria Zumel was the first to emerge to acknowledge it. Zumel leads the Soldiers of the Filipino People [SFP], which fought the Aquino government in 1986 and helped in the failed coup in 1989. Zumel's group proposed several reforms in the government which it said would help in the peace process.

[Zumel] Government must address some things. One is there must be justice. Two, there must be efficient delivery of services and there must be honesty in government.

[Reporter] Among the talking points the SFP will bring to the negotiations are government reorganization, reduction of the bureaucracy, true cleansing of the Armed Forces, and contending with the roots of graft and corruption in the government.

[Zumel] Unfortunately, there was a lack of political will to reduce the bureacracy that has become so bloated. In fact, because of political accommodation, each government has contributed layers upon layers of people in the bureaucracy just to accommodate the proteges of the politicians.

[Reporter] These issues are similar to those to be discussed by the Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance [RAM] of former Colonel Gregorio Honasan, except for some that are specific to the group. Among these is the unconditional return of the remains of former President Ferdinand Marcos with appropriate state honors.

[Zumel] Personally, whatever they say of President Marcos, he was president of this country for 20 years. And they may question his presidency during the proclamation of martial law, but certainly he was elected in 1965, reelected in 1969. So why should he not be given appropriate honors, due honors?

[Reporter] Second among the issues of the Zumel group is the proposal to review the role of the Presidential Commission on Good Government during the Aquino administration.

[Zumel] It is but fair that all other cases that happened during the time of Mrs. Aquino or even up to the present, now that it is President Ramos who is governing this country—all such cases should be investigated.

[Reporter] Meanwhile, junior officers of the Armed Forces held a dialogue this morning with the National Unification Commission. The consultation was held at the Camp Aguinaldo.

Most of those with the ranks of lieutenant and captain favor the granting of amnesty to the rebel soldiers, although they are divided over the rebels' return to service.

In their position paper, the junior officers said professionalization in the military leadership has not yet been fully felt.

They added that insurgency is due to poverty and lack of justice.

[Begin recording of unidentified man in English] Some were structural and economic. For example, they proposed a study of the Articles of War in conjunction with the new Constitution; for example, in the matter of capital punishment. That is only the extreme area of concern. But there are other concerns, such as administration of justice in the Armed Forces, and of course, the main concern is the causes or the roots of rebellion. [end recording]

New Electrification Administration Chief Named

HK2601030093 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 26 Jan 93 p 11

[Text] President Ramos has appointed Teodorico P. Sanchez as the new administrator of the National Electrification Administration (NEA), replacing Rodrigo E. Cabrera who had served as the agency's head for the past five years.

Sanchez's appointment was signed by the President last Friday, January 22.

The new NEA administrator had been with the electrification program for more than six years having served in various capacities, namely: technical assistant to the administrator, director for power use development, and acting general manager of the Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Beneco).

He concurrently serves as a member of the governing board of the National Power Corporation.

Sanchez graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1954 and is currently the President of the West Pointers Society of the Philippines.

Japan Provides 620-Million-Peso Project Grants

HK2601030593 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 Jan 93 p 11

[Text] Japanese Ambassador Hirokazu Arai and Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo signed yesterday the notes regarding three grant projects amounting to 3.1 billion yen or approximately P620 million [Philippine pesos].

The first project, "Constructing Bridges along Rural Roads," will provide steel materials and tools, worth about 700 million yen, for construction of 34 bridges in Bicol and the Visayas. The bridge components will be installed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

This project is the fourth phase of the comprehensive bridge construction plan started in 1988. In the previous three phases, the Government of Japan donated about 70 bridges nationwide which have considerably improved rural transportation.

The second project titled "Urgent Garbage Disposal System Improvement in Metro Manila and Rural Cities," worth about 1.1 billion yen, is comprised of about 100 garbage trucks to rural cities and municipalities nationwide and heavy equipment for sanitary landfill to Metro Manila and major cities.

The Government of Japan has already donated about 450 yellow garbage trucks to all over the Philippines including 196 garbage trucks turned over on January 22, 1993. The trucks have been used effectively to alleviate the garbage problem both in urban and rural areas.

The third project, "Retrieval of Flood Prone Areas in Metro Manila," is a provision of 1.3 billion yen worth of dredges and cleaning equipment to declog esteros [tidal channels used as drainage canals] and sewer pipes in Metro Manila.

The study by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) identified that clogged esteros and sewer pipes are the major cause of urban floods.

Based on the recommendation by JICA, the first package of equipment was donated in 1989 to mitigate urban floods in the City of Manila.

The equipment proved to be effective in tackling this chronic problem.

Thailand

Prasong on Post-Cold War Economic Relations

BK2201135493 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri gave a special talk on Thailand's foreign policy in the post-cold war era at a function organized by the Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce. After the talk, he answered questions on foreign developments involving Thailand, including the Cambodian problem. He gave an assurance to foreigners that ASEAN members would expand economic and social cooperation with other countries now that military tension has toned down.

[Begin Prasong recording in progress] ...in my answers to their questions, I told them that Thailand and its ASEAN partners are making efforts to expand economic cooperation to other regions, and cooperation in trade and other areas which will benefit us all. [end recording]

Deputy Premier on Future Talks With U.S.

BK2201125893 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 22 Jan 93 p 7

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak has talked about the preparations for coping with the possible effects of the new U.S. administration, which came to power on 20 January. He said the first thing Thailand must do is to strengthen the stability of its labor sector. The government is in the process of amending the labor relations law, which will be deliberated in the next session of parliament. The amendment will include the establishment of a labor ministry.

Suphachai said remedial attention will be given to the impact of industry on the environment before the United

States finalizes its decision on the General System of Preferences [GSP] for Thailand, expected in the middle of 1993. Suphachai said he has made an appointment with a U.S. Embassy representative to clarify what Thailand has done regarding intellectual property rights. He said action on certain issues must await the GATT's decisions. A team will also go to the United States to discuss the GSP issue. He said any talk on agricultural products with the United States will probably have to wait for the outcome of the GATT decision.

Weekly Voices Concern Over U.S. War Stockpile

BK2201145793 Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 22-28 Jan 93 pp 12-14

["Exclusive" by Uaiphon Taechutrakun: "Thai-U.S. War Reserve Stockpile and a Renewed Military Tension"]

[Excerpts] It is hard to believe that the end of the cold war has come so easily. It is hard to believe that U.S.-Soviet military rivalry in the region has ended without fanfare. The ports at Cam Ranh Bay and Kompong Som, once under the threatening wing of the Soviet Union, have become just repair shipyards, or possibly commercial ports in the near future. The Subic Bay naval base has been partially closed down, while the U.S. base in South Korea will be closed soon.

It is hard to believe because all this came so fast. Many still can not believe that a new military tension is looming in the region, where a power vacuum has been created by the U.S. and Soviet withdrawals. Given China's strategic supply line in Burma, its sale of weapons worth some 30,000 million baht to Burma, and China's commercial port in the Gulf of Martaban ready to be made into a naval base, does all this point to the Chinese military expansion in the region? Hong Kong and Taiwan, meanwhile, top the list as the biggest investors in Indochina, especially in Vietnam. Is this to be seen as simply economic competition by the noncommunist Chinese to offset the influence of China? In addition to the business deals, we also heard that Taiwan purchased aircraft and weapons from the United States and France—something which greatly upset China.

More have been heard about the power of weapons and military potential of the countries in this region instead of about the balance of power between the United States and the Soviet Union as in the past. People are more concerned with the expansion of Japan's military budget or Japan's other budget in disguise. They are concerned for the outcome, in military terms, of the contest for natural resourses in the Spratley Islands by China, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Some people are concerned to what extent the military relationship between Burma and China will trigger a military reaction from India.

We are saying that there is less significance in military action nowadays, but, faced with such mounting tension, what are we going to do, especially considering the fact that we have in our country "the Thai-U.S. war reserve stockpile," the first of its kind in the world in terms of such cooperation. [passage omitted]

While many may have forgotten about the Thai-U.S. war reserve stockpile, since there has been no news about it, the military in Thailand has always been aware of it because this stockpile played an eminent role in the Persian Gulf War between the United States and its allies and Iraq. And that was the first time the location of the stockpile had been revealed—the main part of it was in Korat.

Concerning implementation of the agreement signed between the two parties on the setting up of the war reserve stockpile, a military source told KHAO PHISET as follows: "The United States greatly benefited from this reserve stockpile during the Gulf war. There had been a request to use U Taphao airbase as a refuelling station for the aircraft flying missions in the Persian Gulf war. Weapons stored at the stockpile had been taken for operations in the Gulf war. The Thai Armed Forces received a letter of commendation and thanks for the contribution."

Concerning weapons at the U.S. stockpile, a high-ranking military officer said this to KHAO PHISET: "We never knew before that they had such weapons at the storage until there was the Iraq war. Anyway, we stand to benefit from it to a certain extent." [passage omitted]

Incidents in the past made it come out into the open—that is, the United States really made use of weapons stored at the Thai-U.S. war reserve stockpile for its operations in the Middle East. Only, there has been no impact on Thailand.

The cold war is over, but military tension is looming in this region. The long-dated and close relationship between Thailand and the United States has made us tend to think that the war reserve stockpile is something benefiting Thailand rather than something having negative consequences.

It is believed the huge arsenal of weapons kept at the stockpile include weapons, ammunition, explosives, spare parts, and replacements, technical data, maintenance service, transportation, classification, and management of weaponry. What most people believe is that there are no nuclear weapons there.

The presence of the U.S. weapons stockpile and the facts about the Persian Gulf War have placed Thailand in the focus again instead of leaving it in the course of a declining military tension. "We have benefited considerably from it. We have credit when it comes to asking for more ammunition. We have weapons of good quality available for immediate use. But we have to admit that the presence of the war reserve stockpile in our country has made Thailand a target in military strategy," a high-ranking military officer told KHAO PHISET.

Army Chief Does Not Rule Out Coup Possibility

BK2501015993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Jan 93 p A1

[Text] Army chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit has vowed to instil democracy in his subordinates and is optimistic that politicians will adopt a hands-off policy towards the military as long as it does not interfere in politics.

The Army was teaching its people to respect and love democracy and to shun nepotism in making major decisions, he said yesterday.

But he declined to rule out the possibility of future coups when asked to comment "personally", saying it depended on the behaviour of the politicians in power.

Wimon said the Army under his leadership would throw out all past practices which had earned it a bad image, like ordering soldiers to vote for particular politicians and flexing muscle to press its demands for benefits.

"We must have clear-cut policies toward [certain democratic issues] since the Army is a big agency with a lot of people," Wimon said.

"And my policies are to allow all soldiers to exercise their own choice [when going to polling stations] and to stay away from civilian politics. We won't try to force politicians to comply with our demands."

In past general elections soldiers were suspected of having "voted on order" to help the candidates favoured by their bosses.

In several occasions when the top brass was in conflict with politicians soldiers gathered in a "show of force" to support their bosses.

"Muscle-flexing tactics" were also allegedly used in the past to intimidate civilian administrations to comply to military requests, such as arms purchases.

Wimon said the Army was trying to increase democratic awareness among its ranks.

"We are making them understand that they have to carry out their duty and preserve their own rights while respecting others' rights."

Following the bloody pro-democracy rallies last May, Wimon replaced Gen Itsaraphong Nunpackdi, who was demoted along with a few other generals for having sent troops to crush demonstrations against the then military-backed government.

Wimon said the Army under his leadership would opt for consensus among particular working panels when making major decisions.

"We must not incline toward interested groups when making decisions. Any decision [on Army policies] must come from a consensus of working panels," Wimol said.

The military, especially the Army, has often been seen as nepotistic in its annual promotions system. Critics claim the top brass often promote their classmates to key posts, or transfer power to another class.

But Wimon denied yesterday that the transition of power among classmates or between classes was intentional.

"We graduated at, or near, the same time. So it's normal that we rise to the top together," the Army chief said.

The Army chief seemed to abandon his democratic principles when asked to comment "personally" on Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's ideas on how to prevent coups.

Chuan told THE NATION last month that legal amendments should be introduced to penalize the leaders of abortive coups.

"No one wants to stage a coup. History tells us that each coup was prompted by the country's problems like corruption which [the government] would not solve. When there was no way out the use of force had to be resorted to."

He said the best way to prevent coups was to create awareness in politicians that they must give priority to the national interest.

"No one will be able to stage a coup if all politicians contribute to the country's interest. It will always be alright if the prime minister is an honest man.

"But when something's wrong and the politicians won't do anything to correct it it will be up to the people's [as published] whether a coup takes place or not."

Pressure Builds for Restructured Police System

BK1701031093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Jan 93 p A8

[Feature in the "Viewpoint" section: "Sawat: Is end near for 'great survivor'?"]

[Text] Pol Gen [Police General] Sawat Amonwiwat is a man of all seasons. As police director general, he has outlived four prime ministers and three governments. And even after the heads of some generals had to roll in the aftermath of the May crisis, Pol Gen Sawat escaped almost unscathed despite his close associations with them.

Critics have attributed his ability to survive partly to his "teflon quality"—the ability to ward off blame. But more importantly, the critics claimed, the 57-year-old police chief has an "exceptional ability" to get along with whoever becomes his boss. But those abilities are now being put to a severe test. And it is anybody's guess whether Sawat will make it this time around under the new boss—Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

Gen Chawalit has indicated that he had something in store for Sawat if the police chief failed to resolve several major criminal cases besieging the Police Department.

One of them is the related murders of four Saudi diplomats in Bangkok and the mysterious disappearance of a Saudi businessman.

A bombing at Hat Yai railway station shortly before the September election, and another one later at the Interior Ministry, the cold-blooded murder of a prostitute seeking help at the Songkhla provincial hall late last year, and the much-publicized explosion which killed five people at a Thon Buri bus terminal recently remain unresolved. And there is little to suggest that the Police Department is close to resolving any of these cases. Showing signs of impatience, Gen Chawalit announced he was giving the Police Department three months to come up with something in these cases.

Even Prime Minister Chuan Likphai joined in criticizing the performance of the Police Department. He complained to the press that the big budget given to the Police Department annually had not resulted in a comparable level of competency.

The ire expressed so openly by both the prime minister and interior minister is interpreted as a direct warning to Pol Gen Sawat. The police chief's hasty decision last week to place a senior police investigator under arrest for alleged murder in connection with the missing Saudi businessman, Muhammad al-Ruwayli, is a good sign that he is finally feeling the heat. He also hurriedly set up a new police committee to revive the investigation into the Saudi murder cases, hoping to turn up new evidence that would lead to some culprits to assuage the government which is in turn under mounting pressure from the Saudi government.

Sawat's failure to crack the Saudi cases may spell doom to his police career, according to sources in the government.

Pol Gen Sawat, who spent almost all of his police years in the Bangkok metropolis, rose to the police chief post in January 1991 after his predecessor, Pol Gen Sawaeng Thirasawat, was removed by then interior minister Pol Gen Praman Adireksan after a series of sandals hit the Police Department. By that time, Sawat had already built up good rapport with the interior minister. Less than two months later, Sawat had a chance to prove his survivability. He became part of the military junta, the National Peacekeeping Council, which seized power after ousting the Chatchai government.

Sawat also quickly moved to appease the generals by removing Pol Maj Gen Seri Temiyawet, commander of the Crime Suppression Division, who had despatched a unit of police commandos to provide security to the home of Prime Minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan on the night before the coup. Pol Maj Gen Seri also became an outspoken critic of the power seizure.

Sources said Sawat also owed his career to his brother, Somphong Amonwiwat, currently Chat Phatthana MP representing Chiang Mai, who is known to have close connections with ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, one of the generals behind the power seizure. The sources said ACM Kaset played an instrumental role in saving Sawat from being axed as part of the efforts of Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, another coup-maker who became interior minister in the first Anan government, to tighten control on the Police Department.

Even though Sawat himself might have had little to do with it, he nevertheless presided over the rise to power in the Police Department of several police officers closely affiliated with the junta. The short-lived administration of Gen Suchinda Khraprayun found a ready servant in Pol Gen Sawat. Though the administration lasted only 47 days, Sawat demonstrated his faithfulness toward the end, before he was taken out of the picture by the military at the height of the May crisis. Nevertheless many have questioned his role in the suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators.

When Anan Panyarachun returned to power for the second time, one of his immediate tasks was to reshuffle the military top brass blamed for the killing of anti-Suchinda protesters. But Pol Gen Sawat survived the axe and even continued to enjoy cordial working relations with his new boss, Interior Minister Pol Gen Phao Sarasin.

The Police Department during the time of the second Anan government abounded with scandals. Every promotion was plagued with charges of nepotism and favouritism. But Pol Gen Sawat survived them all. But the series of serious criminal cases over the past few months have again put Sawat on the spot. And this time around, there are strong doubts about his ability to muddle through.

He has already been indirectly criticized by several police officers of using Pol Lt Col Somkhit Bunthanom, who was arrested in connection with the disappearance of businessman Muhammad al-Ruwayli, as a sacrificial lamb so that he would survive the political pressure.

Pol Gen Sawat's teflon quality is beginning to wear thin. Many believe his days as the national police chief are numbered. Prime Minister Chuan has made it clear that he wants to see an improvement in the structure of the police forces. There have already been suggestions from politicians in government parties for a complete revamp of the police system.

Paper Examines Police Corruption Issue

BK1701045693 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Jan 93 pp A7, A8

[Article in "Viewpoint" section: "To Serve and Extort"]

[Text] Chuan Likphai's sharp and totally unexpected attack is proving an uncomfortable experience for a police force that normally believes it can get away with anything and withstand any criticism. But this time the criticism has a strong foundation in the fiasco of the Saudi murder and theft cases, and the controversy is not likely to fade away so easily. Corrupt police may not be able to bank upon a return to "business as usual"—that is, the grubbing for "tea money".

Feared and despised by the citizens they are supposed to protect, the police must be reformed if Thailand is to shed the dubious honour of being among the world's 10 most corrupt countries, according to anyone who has an opinion on anything to do with the police force. Though it is too soon to expect concrete results from the latest outcry, there have in fact been some measures taken in recent times to improve the image of the police force.

For example the Metropolitan Police Bureau, an operational arm of the Police Department with jurisdiction over the whole of Bangkok, has become more efficient since Pol Lt Gen Chamlong Iamchaengphan took the helm in October last year. Sadly, many police and knowledgeable observers point out that if past experience is any guide, that efficiency could be short-lived.

The bureau's principal functions are crime suppression and investigation, special operations, traffic and suppression of vice. Its divisions are headed by officers with the rank of police general.

Probably the biggest and most obvious headache it has to endure is traffic. So badly congested are the capital's roads, and so costly to business and the economy, that many influential people are calling it a crisis. They demand the situation be given national importance and addressed by the prime minister personally. Because almost every resident is confronted by the traffic nightmare daily, it is their most important priority. But in general conversations about the police, corruption is the topic most vehemently discussed. Everyone, it seems, is tainted by the unsavoury act of having to slip money to the police for favours, or to avoid being charged with real or imagined crimes.

So why are the police so insatiable in their quest to squeeze "bakshish" out of the citizenry in every conceivable way? Why are people so resignedly cynical when a new law is passed, or strengthened, to give the police more powers to clear up crime or other anti-social activities?

Many and varied are the explanations, but the most oft-cited is the poor pay and conditions police officers have to contend with.

A sergeant or private fresh from the police school starts on Bt [baht] 3,400 a month, while a Sam Phran Police Cadet School graduate earns Bt5,500 a month (from this year). Whether or not the meagre salary is a moot point, some police officers (and perhaps the majority, according to knowledgeable sources) supplement their income by a wide variety of corrupt methods—from taking Bt50-200 from motorists to illegally releasing gamblers for Bt5OO under the table to outright serious criminal offences such as drug running and murder (it's widely known that many rogue cops work as "guns for hire").

In respect of traffic police, given the horrendous working conditions they have to endure, and the deleterious effects on their health, there is considerable public sympathy for them. Few people seem to begrudge them the 25 per cent bounty on fines imposed on traffic violators they are allowed to have. Yet despite this "bonus", truck drivers and motorcyclists in particular are frequently targetted for "tea money". That, explains one officer, is because of the long time it takes for the bounty to be paid.

However, road users are hit for "tea money" from every possible angle. For example a typical traffic inspector at an urban police station collects "queue" money from the motorcycle taxi groups operating on sois. This is cash paid by the group boss to allow the riders to operate unhindered. It amounts to Bt10,000 a month for a group of 50-plus bikes and less for smaller outfits.

A variation on the demand for money is the payment a veteran "beat" traffic cop makes to his superior just to stay assigned to an area he knows best and which he has "developed" to a highly lucrative stage. An energetic beat cop can rake in a small fortune by milking motorists such as truck drivers who regularly use the area and local businesses (allowing them to double-park or park illegally, for instance).

At Bt150 per truck per month in a high density area of several city blocks, there's a lot of money to be made. So much so that violence among traffic police themselves is not uncommon as they fight for the spoils—a police sergeant was reported to have killed his inspector at Wat Prayakrai police station in one such incident.

But what of the other arms of the metropolitan police force? Detective work is usually regarded as a "thankless" job in terms of access to quick money. Investigation involves long and tedious hours of work with a lot of reports to be written and cases to be attended in court—the police bureaucratic red tape is indeed cumbersome and grossly outdated.

In the meantime, the detectives see their uniformed colleagues making easy money, and a certain amount of jealousy creeps in, says one. Underpaid and overworked, the detectives decide that "what's good for the goose is good for the gander", and turn to what is euphemistically called the shuffle—that is, arranging court lists so that defendants who are willing to pay can have their cases dealt with quickly.

But these are just a few of the causes of police dissatisfaction that, justifiable or not, leads them to "make hay while the sun shines", according to a criminologist who wanted to remain anonymous. Here are some of the less known reasons for disenchantment he has documented:

The Boss's Kid

Police say one of the most grating problems they face on the beat is the pressure to overlook blatant and serious violations by "the boss's kids". Against their will, some officers say they have no choice but to let the siblings of senior policemen go free for fear they will suffer reprisals.

Scapegoat

Another discouragement is lowly-ranked officers being forced to take the blame for their superiors. Perhaps the most extreme example of this, the criminologist says, is the case of the non-commissioned officer who was forced by his boss, an inspector, to extract a confession from a suspect by any means. The suspect died and the officer ended up behind bars while his inspector remains a free man.

Non-Policing Duties

While senior police officers constantly complain of manpower shortages, the force in fact loses a sizeable portion of its members to private business. Gold shops and banks pay police officers Bt1,500 to Bt2,000 a month just to hang around to deter robbers. These officers seem to easily justify their presence.

For many aspiring police officers, the uniform is a means to an end. While some have a genuine desire to serve society, others see it a "cash cow". They will pay tens of thousands, and maybe even hundreds of thousands, of baht to carry the badge of a police private despite the official salary of a paltry Bt3,400 a month. Says the criminologist, the lure of making shady money from all sorts of rackets can prove irresistable.

In a sense, he says, the police are the ultimate bosses of the racketeers, if not the actual syndicated crime bosses. They get paid by gambling houses, entertainment venues, brothels and assorted sex service establishments to turn a blind eye to their activities. For instance, many pubs do not have a proper licence or stay open beyond legally-permitted hours. For this they pay the police between Bt3,000 and Bt5,000 a month for smaller venues, and a significantly higher figure for the more popular places.

This form of corruption is often organized with the connivance of an entire unit of the force, and it is impossible for an individual officer who objects on principle to do anything about it. Therefore, to the honest cop nothing is more disparaging than to hear a newly-appointed superior publicly declare his desire to clean up the force, to root out the corrupt police.

According to the criminologist, young offcers with a sense of civic duty are often bitterly disillusioned. Against overwhelming (and even deadly) opposition, few will be heroic enough to emulate the famed New York cop, Frank Serpico. They either give in to temptation or quit. But the criminologist says that the feasibility of translating Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut's desire to see the police free from corruption and operating with dignity depends very much on the development of a new breed of officer who can resist temptation—an "untouchable" in the Elliot Ness mould.

To eradicate gambling is a task that will depend on the police director general, Pol Gen Sawat Amonwiwat, himself. It will be a formidable task since it's accepted that even the Crime Suppression Division police, charged with wiping out gambling, are said to be raking in millions from turning a blind eye and even providing police protection for racketeers.

A special police task force, headed by Pol Lt Gen Pracha Promnok, has been set up to crack down on illegal gambling and stamp out related problems. In the meantime a number of senior police have been disciplined for failing to suppress gambling (and other major offences such as child prostitution) in the precincts over which they had jurisdiction. According to certain police sources, this has had some effect on the force in general and led to a belief that it is now more efficient.

Yet in the long run, they say, it is not reorganization, restructuring or any form of radical change that will improve the police force. The ultimate question revolves around human resources—the desire of the cop on the beat to uphold the traditions of serving and protecting the public.

Police Receive 3-Year-Old Evidence in Saudi Case

BK2101031393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 93 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Saudi jewellery investigation took another twist yesterday with the announcement by the Interior Ministry and Police Department that they had received vital evidence withheld for nearly three years. Interior sources said a letter, videotape and photographs of the stolen valuables sent by their owner, Prince Faysal Fahd bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, to then prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan on April ll, 1990, had taken almost three years to reach Police Department Chief Sawat Amonwiwat.

The sources said Prince Faysal thanked the Thai Government in the letter for helping recover the stolen jewellery and also provided vital information on the details of the jewellery items stolen by Kriangkrai Techamong from his palace in 1989. Mr Kriangkrai later escaped with the jewellery to Thailand where he was arrested along with some of the valuables in 1990 and later sentenced to a five-year jail term.

Pol Gen Sawat said on Tuesday night he had no knowledge of the letter until Pol Lt-Gen Chalo Koethet, a commissioner attached to the department, presented a copy last Friday.

The police chief also said yesterday investigators had just discovered that a videotape sent along with the letter contained details of the stolen jewellery. The tape had been held up at the Prime Minister's Office before being forwarded to the Police Department.

Pol Lt-Gen Chalo headed the police investigation committee which arrested Kriangkrai and recovered the stolen jewellery. He was subsequently investigated for disciplinary and criminal action for alleged serious misconduct in handling the case.

Prince Faysal in his letter purportedly informed Gen Chatchai that the jewellery recovered by Thai police and returned to him amounted to only 30 per cent of the total goods stolen. The sources said the Saudi prince also informed Gen Chatchai he had sent a videotape and photographs of the stolen jewellery along with the letter—the vital details which Thai police said they never received.

The prince also requested that Kriangkrai be returned to Saudi Arabia so he could re-enact the theft which he believed involved more than one person. The sources said the prince offered to send a private jet to fly Kriangkrai to Saudi Arabia and back again after completing the re-enactment, expected to last about an hour.

The prince told Gen Chatchai he would guarantee the safety of Kriangkrai if he was sent to Saudi Arabia. He also suggested to Gen Chatchai that Pol Lt-Gen Chalo be asked to requestion Kriangkrai to establish the whereabouts of the missing jewellery. Prince Faysal also offered to send Saudi policemen to assist Pol Lt-Gen Chalo in recovering the missing valuables.

The sources said the letter had apparently been withheld and not referred to by any of the police investigating committees.

Pol Gen Sawat said yesterday a Special Branch police committee appointed to investigate the disappearance of Prince Faysal's letter, videotape and photographs had traced the items to the Prime Minister's Secretary-General Office. He said the office had not forwarded the tape to the Police Department because it was made for a video colour system used in the United States (NTSC) and could not be replayed on PAL colour systems available in Thailand.

"The Prime Minister's secretary general, seeing that the tape could not be replayed, lost interest in it and did not send it to the Police Department," said Pol Gen Sawat.

Gen Chatchai, asked to comment on his return from Laos yesterday, said he could not remember the letter.

"It has been a long time. I can't remember," he said.

Gen Chatchai said he had good relations with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia but denied any knowledge of Prince Faysal's letter. Gen Chatchai, now the leader of the Chat Phatthana Party, then quickly switched to other issues saying Thailand should retaliate against Saudi Arabia for refusing to issue Thai workers with visas.

"That was unfair to Thailand," he said.

The former prime minister said Riyadh should recognise that Thailand played an important role in assisting its country during the Persian Gulf War by allowing the US to use U-Taphao Airport as a staging point for its troops.

"The Thai Government should ask Saudi Arabia to repay its gratitude to us."

Gen Chatchai said he was the one who issued the secret order to Adm Praphat Krishanachan, Navy commander-in-chief at the time, allowing the US to use U-Thapao in Chon Buri's Sattahip District.

"I didn't reveal this for the good of myself I just want the Government to benefit from the information," he said.

Chat Phatthana deputy leader Praphat Limpaphan defended Gen Chatchai by saying it was impossible for the former prime minister to remember all the letters forwarded to him because he had a lot of work to do. Sub Lt Praphat, who was foreign minister during the Chatchai administration, said the Foreign Ministry should be asked about the letter as it was the agency which screened the letter before submitting it to Gen Chatchai.

Gen Chatchai's son, Kraisak, said last night he did not remember the letter either but, judging from the language used, the document could be a fake.

Editorial Urges Review of Burmese Relations

BK2401015693 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jan 93 p A13

[Editorial: "Do Human Lives in Burma Matter at All to Thailand?"]

[Text] Burma today is under one of the most repressive military regimes the world has ever seen. The United Nations Human Rights Commission has voted unanimously in Geneva to condemn the military regime for human rights violations. Amnesty International reports widespread arrests, disappearances, shootings and brutal torture in the troubled period since 1988.

Following international pressure, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) supervised a general election on May 27, 1990. However when the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) led by 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi won a landslide victory, the military regime refused to relinquish power.

The Slorc instead issued Order 1/90 on July 27, 1990 and invalidated the results of the elections and established that only Slorc had the right to exercise power. Till today, Suu Kyi remains under detention by the Slorc.

Burma's military dictators still continue to ignore UN resolutions to allow all citizens to participate freely in the country's political process in accordance with the principals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

These sad facts are now common knowledge to the world, but yet the government in Thailand chooses to be willfully ignorant of them.

Late last week, we learned with repugnance of two events involving Thailand and its neighbour.

On Thursday, Thailand and Burma agreed to set up a joint commission, designed mainly to promote economic and trade cooperation. The agreement was signed at Saranom Palace by Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and his Burmese counterpart Ohn Gyaw.

After the signing, Prasong told reporters that the move was not intended to bolster Burma's ruling Slorc. "It is part of Thailand's policy to treat all countries equally. We have a policy of constructive engagement with Burma," he stressed. On Friday, the Thai Military Bank became the first foreign financial institution to set up business in Burma after 30 years, with the opening of its branch office in Rangoon.

There is a certain argument that non-interference in a nation's affairs is more important than defending the rights of the people. The impending question to be asked is how can one define a nation when it comes to Burma? In the 1990 elections, more than 80 per cent of voters spoke with a single voice—the voice of a nation in electing the NLD headed by Aung San Suu Kyi. Any country that cooperates with the illegal rule of the Slorc by providing it with money through trade, weapons or diplomatic recognition—which in turn allows it to perpetuate its repression—is interfering in the affairs of Burma and of the people of Burma in exercising their right to national self-determination.

Conversely, to cooperate with the people of Burma in establishing a democratic civilian government—they have already chosen—is to uphold human rights as well as the right of a nation to pursue its own development. The Slorc rejected by the nation, heads an army of occupation.

The continuing civil war within Burma and its struggle for human rights and democracy can no longer be seen as purely domestic issues. Already, Burma is causing destabilization within Southeast Asia. There have been clashes between Thai and Burmese troops along the border resulting in casualties. There has also been increasing tension between the Bangladesh government and the Slorc over Burmese Muslim refugees and Slorc cross-border aggression. Also, the Indian government is finding it necessary to fortify its border positions with Burma. These are but the early warnings of future international conflict and friction. These recent events cannot be allowed to go unnoticed by the larger world community, nor can they resolved without addressing the root problems inside Burma.

The longer Slorc stays in power, the more the Burmese people will suffer. Thailand has to realize that human lives are certainly more important than timber concessions granted to Thai logging companies.

We urge Thailand instead to constructively engage the pro-democracy forces in Burma to exorcise the evil that has possessed the people through the Slorc.

Burmese Opposition Regrets Economic Agreement

BK2401021693 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 24 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] An anti-Rangoon movement has voiced concern and regret at Thailand's signing of an agreement on trade and economic relations with Burma.

The Ministry of Trade of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma said the pact, signed under the framework of the so-called Constructive Engagement Policy, will never produce any benefit and progress for the Burmese people but will help the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) to continue to hold power.

Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and his Burmese counterpart U Ohn Gyaw signed an agreement on January 21 to set up the Thai-Burma Joint Committee on January 21 to promote bilateral trade and economic relations.

Thai students, environmentalists and human rights activists have also protested against the signing out of concern that all the benefits generated by the pact will fall only to SLORC and its power will grow stronger.

They are concerned that the agreement may require Burma to allow Thailand to build a dam on the Salween River, posing a threat to the environment.

Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong earlier denied that the pact strengthens SLORC power and that economic cooperation will involve dam construction which will damage the environment.

The statement issued by the movement, while expressing concern similar to that of Thai groups, urged the Thai Government to adopt a policy of gaining long-term benefit rather than shortterm gain.

"For long-term benefit, it is important for Thailand to be seen by the people of Burma as a good and considerate neighbour, rather than a profit hungry collaborator with their repressive regime," the statement said.

It asked Thailand to bring the Constructive Engagement Policy in line with the international community's increasing pressure on SLORC.

"It (the policy) is interpreted by the SLORC only as an indication of weakness and timidity on the part of Thailand in the face of military superiority," the release said.

The anti-SLORC movement urged the Thai Government to cut economic and trade relations with the regime to maintain Thailand's prestige and to have regard to peace, development, democracy and human rights.

Refugee Camp Closed; Last Cambodians Repatriated

BK2201131893 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] This morning, Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Phisit Atkhumwong presided over the closure of the Site 8 Refugee Center in Khlong Hat District, Prachin Buri Province, after repatriation of the last batch of 177 Cambodian refugees.

Speaking afterwards, Gen. Phisit said if the Khmer Rouge do not join the peace process, the situation in Cambodia will not return to normal. If the situation should deteriorate to the point where armed elements cross into Thai territory, these elements will have to be disarmed and sent back. Refugees who flee across the border will be given assistance and eventually repatriated. Gen. Phisit said he believed the presidential election will enhance the prospects for peace in Cambodia.

Second Bridge to Laos Under Consideration

BK2201035393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jan 93 p A4

[Text] Thailand and Laos will soon discuss sharing the responsibility and expense of building a second new bridge linking the two nations, expected to be ready not later than June next year, according to informed sources.

The sources said that Interior Ministry has already received guidelines suggesting ways through which Thailand and Laos could share jurisdiction over the Mitaphap Bridge connecting Thailand's Nong Khai province with Laos' Tha Naleng province.

The two neighbouring countries would have to maintain the 1.17-km bridge with immigration and customs offices at both ends.

The division of legal responsibility over the bridge has not yet been finalized.

A clear definition of jurisdiction would become crucial if illegal activities or accidents took place on certain parts of the bridge and the country responsible wished to take legal action against suspects.

The countries will also have to meet maintenance expenses for the section of the bridge under their control.

The sources said the interior ministry, according to the guideline, suggested that the deepest point of the Mekong River, traditionally regarded as the border line, should be used as the boundary of the bridge.

They stress, however, that the main part of the river at the section where the Mitaphap Bridge is to be constructed reaches deeper into the Laotian side.

If the zone of jurisdiction is delineated by adopting the suggested method, Thailand will have to take responsibility for a longer stretch of the bridge, according to the sources.

Meanwhile, a diplomat said the principle applied to mark the boundary of the bridge should be inflexible so that it could be adopted for other such bridges expected to be constructed in the future to link Thailand and Laos.

Former Prime Minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan had earlier expressed his belief that the second international bridge spanning the Mekong River should be constructed between Mukdahan province and Sawannaket of Laos.

The sources said that, in the event the second bridge is built there and the method chosen for the Mitaparp bridge to decide the boundary is adopted, Laos would have legitimacy over a longer section because at that part, the main course runs deeper into Thailand.

The proposed guideline also suggested that both countries jointly maintain the bridge, entirely funded by the Australian government. Joint law enforcement teams would have to be formed if that is the case, they added.

Investment Board Urges Expansion in Vietnam

BK1601034093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Jan 93 p 20

[Text] The Board of Investment (BoI) has urged Thai businessmen to expand their businesses into Vietnam before the country boosts its protection against imports. The BoI expects Vietnam to continue increasing its protection against imports to protect local industries, as has been the trend in other developing countries, so locals who want to invest in Vietnam should start soon.

The Vietnamese Government currently bans the import of 10 types of products to protect local industry.

According to the BoI's Indochina Centre, Vietnam will become a strong competitor with Thailand for foreign investment over the next five years. This is because of its abundant natural resources, market size and low labour costs. In addition, Vietnam has rapidly improved its foreign investment promotion measures, including speeding up approval of promotional privileges for projects.

"Any application receiving no response from Vietnamese provincial authorities within 20 days will automatically get approval," a source at the Indochina Centre said.

The expected lifting of US trade and investment embargoes on Vietnam would provide a huge boost to its economy and probably see foreign investment flooding into Vietnam. Thai investors should therefore start to invest in Vietnam so they could act as "pioneers" in business there.

The Indochina Centre provides information for people wishing to invest in Vietnam. It suggests there are good prospects for investment in sectors such as food processing, agricultural processing, tourism-related businesses, light industry, such as shoes, clothing and furniture, ceramics, plastic, mining and electronics. Initially, Thailand and Vietnam would cooperate on investment by exchanging missions. In the future, the BoI could establish an investment consulting office in Vietnam.

Thailand ranks as the 13th-largest investor in Vietnam, with 30 projects worth a combined US$42 million. Taiwan is the biggest investor, with 57 projects worth US$755.4 million.

Envoy to PRC Urges More Investment in China

BK1601032693 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Jan 93 p 20

[Text] Thai Ambassador to China Montri Chalichan has urged Thai investors and business operator to place more emphasis on the Chinese market, saying he believes that the Chinese have minimal purchasing power is a fallacy.

China has enjoyed significant economic growth in recent times, with the rate in 1992 climbing to 12 percent from 7 percent in 1991. It is projected the economy will grow 10 percent this year. This has greatly contributed to the people's standard of living, especially those living in coastal industrial provinces.

"The buying patterns of the Chinese have changed. The people are turning increasingly to buying more consumer products, especially high quality products," Mr Montri said.

Well-off Chinese women, for example, are now buying Italian-made brassieres for 8,000-10,000 [U.S.$1 = approx. 25 baht] baht each. The maker of Pargola-label bras set up a factory in China eight months ago.

China has rapidly liberalised its centrally-planned market in recent years. Last October, the US successfully convinced China to allow it more access to the country's markets.

The bilateral agreement stated that Chinese import rules and regulations must be transparent meaning that regulations must be published. Trade barriers on non-tariff trade must be revoked and tariff barriers reduced. China acceded to the US demand to abrogate regulations which are not associated with trade issues. China also said it would cut the tariffs on as many as 3,000 product categories last December as it intended to become a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Mr Montri said Thai officials were attempting to have the US agreements extended to Thailand.

"The volume of trade between Thailand and China has long been stalled. The volume has remained at the level of 25,000 million baht for five to six years while South Korea doubled its trade from 125,000 million baht in 1991 to 250,000 million baht in the following year," he said.

He said the trading volume between the two countries was dismal, mainly because trade agreements had only been made at government-to-government level so far.

The ambassador said difficulties with doing business in China were being minimised as the country intended to attract foreign investments. It had decentralised the control of investments to the provinces, with each province coming up with its own investment package aimed at granting more privileges to lure foreign investments.

"Foreign operators can lease land for periods varying from 30 to 90 years in different provinces. Employment of local workers, although it has to be carried out by a central job placement agency, as well as tax payments can be negotiated with the Government for mutual benefit," he said.

Costly consumer goods such as TV sets, VCR machines, refrigerators and washing machines were selling very well in the country and the Government was encouraging consumer conglomerates to open manufacturing plants there.

Fuel Demand, Supply for 1993 Outlined

BK1801075493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] According to the Commercial Registration Department, fuel demand in 1993 is estimated to increase over the 1992 demand by 8 percent—the 1993 daily demand is estimated at 79.5 million liters, or 500,000 barrels. About 71 percent of the supply will come from local refineries and a gas separation plant; 29 percent will be imported in the form of finished oil products. The daily total local refinery capacity from three refineries and gas separation plant is about 56.7 million liters, or 356,640 barrels—a 10-percent increase over 1992. Eighty-four percent of the crude oil feeding local refineries will be imported, the other 16 percent will come from local crude. The crude oil imported from the Middle East will total about 9.8 billion liters, or about 60.3 percent, and 6.443 billion liters or about 39.7 percent will come from Southeast Asia and the Far East—Brunei, Malaysia, and Australia.

The majority of local crude will continue to come from the natural gas fields in the Gulf of Thailand in the form of 1.545 billion liters of condensate. The Phet crude from the Sirikit product site will account for 1.37 billion liters and 177 million liters will come from other sources.

Officals Expect To Destroy 90% of Opium Crop

BK2001031793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Jan 93 p A2

[Text] Chiang Mai—Anti-drug officials, with the help of border patrol police and the army, expect to destroy more than 90 per cent of the opium poppies grown in Thailand's northern provinces this year.

Banphot Primdi, director of the Office of Narcotics Control in the North, said yesterday this year's eradication campaign would wipe out 18,000 of an estimated total of 19,000 rai of opium poppies grown in the area.

"The eradication programme, coupled with drug suppression and demand reduction, is yielding impressive results," Banphot said.

The eradication programme which is carried out between December and February every year, involves the deployment of border patrol police and army troops to manually cut and burn the opium poppies.

If the eradication programme proceeds at the current rate, we will be able to eliminate opium growing in five years," Banphot said.

This year, it is estimated that hilltribe people are cultivating opium poppies on 7,627 rai in Chian Mai, 6,698 rai in Mae Hong Son and 2,259 rai in Chiang Rai. Other poppy-growing areas include Phayao, Nan and other northern provinces.

Banphot said he believed hilltribe people who were addicted to opium would use up the remaining narcotic in their villages, with nothing left to produce heroin.

The government has successfully reduced the opium poppy growing area from 113,000 rai in the northern provinces in 1965 to less than 20,000 during the past few years, he said.

Many opium growing hilltribe people in Thailand have been persuaded to switch to legal crops to generate alternative income.

However, the director said the problem of drug trafficking would not just go away, even if Thailand managed to eliminate opium growing in the country, because heroin would continue to be transshipped through Thailand to the United States and western European countries.

Banphot said law enforcement officials arrested 2,433 people in connection with heroin trafficking and seized 218 kg of the drug and another 2,321 suspects who were in possession of opium in 1992. He said 15 tonnes of marijuana was also confiscated last year.

Government Plans To Restructure Import Duties

BK2201042593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jan 93 p B1

[Text] Government yesterday reassured the private sector of its commitment to carry out plans to restructure import duty and make adjustments to help provincial business boom and in so doing improve the distribution of national income.

Phisit Phakkasem, secretary-general of National Economic and Social Development Board, said the plans were discussed at yesterday's meeting of Joint Public/Private Sector Consultative Committee (JPPCC)—the first session was chaired by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai.

He said the government would also ensure that various functions carried out by civil servants would be improved to help accommodate the needs of private sector businesses and investors.

Investors, especially from overseas, need reassurance that government services are adequately supportive and public utilities efficient and competitively-priced, he said.

In addition, Thai wages have to be competitive to eliminate the threat of labour unrest.

When wage increases are considered, the country's competitiveness must be thoroughly evaluated, he said, adding that local wage rates are already two and a half times more than Indonesia's and four times more than China's.

Both Indonesia and China are Thailand's rivals in terms of foreign investment.

To bolster business confidence and encourage more investment, the government will pursue its plan to lower import duties on raw materials, and semi-finished materials used in industries affected by the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) programme, he said.

Efforts will also be made to improve facilities in the provincial environment, making the areas more conducive for carrying out efficient business.

Professional services such as accounting and auditing, international legal advise, and financial advisory and information services will be promoted while immigration rules will be eased, he said.

Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin said the Bank of Thailand would be asked to consider implementing extra measures that would ensure low-cost credit was made available to businessmen in the provinces.

Deputy Premier Suphachai said the measures discussed at the first JPPCC meet of Chuan government were intended to revitalize the investment sector and strengthen its competitiveness.

He said government had asked Japan to spur investment in support industries.

Deputy Premier Suphachai Phanitchaphak said yesterday the new US administration was unlikely to be more protectionist than its predecessor, but it was likely to increase the emphasis on human rights in its bilateral relations with trading partners.

He said the Thai government would hold further talks with the new administration on pending bilateral issues including intellectual property, labour and the environment.

Improvements on the labour issue are already under investigation, while both countries will wait for the conclusion of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) before pursuing the intellectual property issue.

On the protection of the environment issue, he said, the Thai government was already making strong efforts to improve things.

Vietnam

Ministry: 'No Strings' Tied to U.S. Relations

BK2501152793 Hanoi VNA in English 1430 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 25—Vietnam Monday said no strings should be attached to the normalisation of relations with the United States, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said in an interview with VIETNAM NEWS. That state-to-state relations should be based on mutual respect, equality, mutual interest and non-interference.

The spokesman was commenting on a statement made by U.S. Under Secretary of State Clifton Wharton last Friday that President Clinton planned to maintain former President Bush's three conditions for normalising U.S. relations with Vietnam.

"Vietnam is willing to normalise relations with the United States because that is what both peoples are interested in and wish for, and because that would serve peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the whole world", the spokesman said.

Asked to speak about the MIA issue, he said Vietnam viewed it as a purely humanitarian issue, not related to any political problems. "This was what Vietnam and the United States agreed during the visit of a U.S. presidental envoy in 1987", the spokesman recalled, adding that Vietnam had given an active cooperation in this humanitarian issue and would continue to do so.

"We hope the United States will honor what it has agreed with Vietnam", he said.

General Doan Khue Pays Tet Visit to Provinces

BK2401101693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] On the occasion of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, General Doan Khue, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of national defense, paid a visit to the people and armed forces of Kien Giang, An Giang, Dong Thap, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, Vinh Long, and Tien Giang provinces, Can Tho City, and a number of military units in the 9th Military Region.

General Doan Khue, on behalf of the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee and the Ministry of National Defense, commended these provinces for their achievements in productive labor, economic development, agricultural production, national defense, and maintenance of social order and safety.

General Doan Khue also thanked party organizations, the administration, and people of these provinces for their support and assistance extended to various Armed Forces to enable the latter to satisfactorily fulfill their assigned tasks. He wished these provinces new, ever-greater achievements in the New Year so as to help make the people prosperous and the country strong, thereby contributing to the renovation undertaking of the nation.

On his visit to combatants on the Tho Chu Islet of Phu Quoc Island, General Doan Khue heard reports by leading cadres and commanders of various units on their achievements in stabilizing the people's daily life, accelerating production, and strengthening national defense. He urged these units to strive to improve their training, enhance their capabilities, strengthen unity with the people, and participate and help the people in developing the economic, cultural, education, and public health domains so as to make the island economically prosperous and militarily strong.

General Doan Khue also visited and presented gifts to a number of families of fallen combatants and wounded soldiers in provinces of the Mekong River Delta.

Party, State Leaders Pay New Year Visits

BK2501070593 Hanoi VNA in English 0651 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 25—Party and state leaders toured many provinces and economic and cultural establishments in recent days on the occasion of the Lunar New Year.

Do Muoi, general secretary of the Party Central Committee, and Dao Duy Tung, politburo member and secretary of the Party Central Committee, visited the northern provinces of Hoa Binh and Quang Ninh, and met with workers at the Cao Phong state farm and the hydro-electric power plant in Hoa Binh, and at the coal mines in Quang Ninh.

President Le Duc Anh called at some economic establishments in Hanoi. At the Giang Vo telecommunication centre, he talked on long-distance phones with people in the provinces of Quang Nam-Danang, Thua Thien Hue and Son La, and the island district of Truong Sa (Spratly), and wished them all a happy new year. He also visited the Vietnam Railway Union.

Gen. Doan Khue, politburo member of the Party Central Committee and minister of defence, visited the provinces of Kien Giang, An Giang, Dong Thap, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, Vinh Long, and Tien Giang, the city of Can Tho, and the ninth military zone.

Earlier, Vice-president Nguyen Thi Binh paid a working visit to Quang-Nam-Danang province, Ho Chi Minh City and Tien Giang province.

Pay Homage to Ho Chi Minh

BK2501095593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] On the occasion of the New Year of the Rooster, a delegation of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee, Vietnam President of State, National Assembly Standing Committee, Government, and

Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, led by Comrades Do Muoi, Pham Van Dong, Le Duc Anh, and Nong Duc Manh on 21 January laid a wreath and paid homage to late President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum. On the same day, delegations from the Ministries of National Defense and Interior, party Central Committee Office, National Assembly Office, State President Office, Government Office, various party departments, and a large number of civilians visited the mausoleum to pay homage to late President Ho Chi Minh.

Do Muoi Attends Fatherland Front Function

BK2501135593

[Editorial Report] Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in Vietnamese at 1100 GMT on 20 January carries a five-minute report on a meeting of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee in the morning of 20 January 1993 to welcome the lunar new year. Party General Secretary Do Muoi and Pham The Duyet, member of the party Political Bureau and secretary of Hanoi party committee, attended the function.

At the get-together, Do Muoi said: "Ladies and Gentlemen, on this year-end occasion, I am very pleased to be gathered here with representatives of various social strata and organizations and overseas Vietnamese to say good-bye to the Year of the Monkey and welcome the Year of the Rooster. The comrade general secretary stated that the Vietnamese fatherland is our great beloved family and the Vietnam Fatherland Front is an organization in which we can discuss all issues beneficial to the country and to coordinate actions for the purpose of making the people prosperous, the country powerful, and society civilized. He stressed that since the unification of the country 18 years ago, 1992 was the year that our people scored many encouraging achievements.

"He reviewed the results of economic construction and development in 1992 and confirmed that we have firmly stood up and moved forward with our intelligence and strength. He clearly pointed out that the 1992 achievements were significantly contributed by the fatherland fronts at all levels. The comrade general secretary went on to say that the Forth Plenum of the party Central Committee issued resolutions on education and training work, cultural and arts tasks in the subsequent years, urgent issues on the care and protection of people's health, the policy on population and family planning, and youth work in the new situation. The plenum was focused on the people and their lives and happiness with the aim of making men loftily intelligent, physically robust, devoutly spiritual, and conscientiously ethical. It also concentrated on important issues directly related to the life and future of every individual, family, and the entire society. Party and state organs will definitely closely cooperate with the fatherland fronts at all levels to motivate the public to achieve targets and tasks set forth by the seventh national party congress and plenum resolutions to make our country prosperous, powerful, and civilized and to eliminate our nation's long-term enemies of starvation, poverty, and backwardness.

"The comrade general secretary went on to say that the new year is an occasion for us to remember our ancestors who built and protected our dear country with their sweat and blood, and President Ho Chi Minh, a great leader who raised higher the banner of great national unity and gathered people from all strata to create strength to triumph over all enemies for national independence and freedom. We promise to accomplish this target, which is independence for the nation, freedom for the people, and happiness for the compatriots and we always keep in mind his teaching: 'Unity, unity, great unity; success, success, great success.'

"The comrade general secretary said that on the new year, on behalf of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Vietnam Fatherland Front, I wish good health to lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, president of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee Presidium, members of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee Presidium, and representatives of mass organizations and other members of the Vietnam Fatherland Front. I also would like to send to the people in the country and overseas Vietnamese new year greetings of good health, happiness, and success."

Also on 20 January, Do Muoi paid a traditional new year visit to Than Chi Pham Khac Hoe, revolutionary veteran Le Van Hiem, and musician Van Cao.

Makes Tet Visits

BK2501155393

[Editorial Report] Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese at 1200 GMT on 19 and 21 January carries reports on General Secretary Do Muoi paying Tet visits to various provinces, attending the Vietnam Fatherland Front's function, and calling on the Hanoi Party and People's Committees, Military Hospital 103, the Hanoi Convalescent Center, and families of writers and artists in the capital city.

Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese at 1200 GMT on 19 January carries an eight-minute report on General Secretarty Do Muoi and other leaders paying Tet visits to the Provinces of Hoa Binh and Quang Ninh, and Haiphong municipality. The television report says: "At Hoa Binh Province, General Secretary Do Muoi and Comrade Dao Duy Tung, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, visited the Cao Phong State Farm and cordially met with cadres, workers, and specialists at the Da River Hydroelectric Power Plant. In his meeting with leading cadres of the province, Comrade Do Muoi, on behalf of the party Central Committee, commended party organizations, the administration, and the people of Hoa Binh Province for their achievements in politico-socioeconomic tasks in 1992, especially their efforts in stabilizing the local situation, accelerating forest preservation, expanding the orchard fruit economy, and applying scientific-technological innovations to agricultural production. The general secretary stressed that to satisfactorily carry out the renovation undertaking, we must strive to build strong and firm party organizations.

"Speaking to cadres, workers, and specialists at the Da River Hydroelectric Power Plant, Comrade Do Muoi commended them for their efforts in fulfilling the 1992 targets, thereby ensuring the pace and quality of the construction work. He reminded them that according to schedule, this project will be completed in 1993. As a result they must strive to satisfactorily complete the remaining sub-projects and must ensure the quality of their work in order to make the Da River Hydroelectric Power Plant one of the largest plants in Southeast Asia."

The report further says that "Comrade Do Muoi urged Hoa Binh Province and agencies concerned to strive to bring into full play the potential and capacity of this hydroelectric power plant so as to help develop the agro-forestry-fishery and other sectors."

The report adds that on 17-18 January, Comrades Do Muoi and Dao Duy Tung visited Quang Ninh Province and met with the provincial leading cadres and workers at the Cam Pha Coal Mine. The report says: "Comrade Do Muoi, on behalf of the party Central Committee, commended the provincial party organization and people for their achievements in coal, agricultural, and fishery production, as well as in exports, and in building infrastructure projects. He also urged the province to coordinate with ministries and friendly provinces to amend and supplement the province's economic development strategy to suit the new situation at home and abroad, and to strive to effectively exploit the available potentials while expanding relations with foreign countries."

The report says further that on 19 January, Comrade Do Muoi visited and extended best wishes to cadres, combatants, and people in Haiphong municipality. "He hailed Haiphong for its efforts and achievements in the socioeconomic development program."

Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese at 1200 GMT on 21 January carries a seven-minute report on Comrade Do Muoi attending a function held by the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee and visiting the Hanoi Party and People's Committees, establishments, and families of writers and artists in Hanoi on the traditional new year.

The report says: "At the VFF function, Comrade Le Quang Dao, on behalf of the VFF Presidium and Central Committee, delivered a speech welcoming and extending best wishes to the general secretary. Comrade Do Muoi, in return, extended Tet greetings to members of the VFF Presidium, mass organizations, and agencies attached to the VFF."

The report says that earlier, Comrade Do Muoi paid a Tet visit to the Hanoi Municipal Party and People's Committees. "On hand to welcome him were Pham The Duyet, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi party committee; Le At Hoi, chairman of the people's committee; Pham Loi, chairmam of the people's council; leading cadres and veteran revolutionaries; and comrades from wards and districts representing the capital people's strata. Speaking to these people, the general secretary commended them for their efforts and achievements scored during the past year. He wished them good luck and prosperity in 1993."

On the same day, Comrade Do Muoi paid a Tet visit to Military Hospital 103. The report says that accompanying the general secretary were Nguyen Dinh San, member of party Central Committee and secretary of the Ha Tay provincial party committee; Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Trong Xuyen, deputy minister of national defense; and Nguyen Trong Nhan, minister of public health. "Comrade Do Muoi commended professors, doctors, cadres, workers, and personnel of the hospital for their efforts and achievements scored in teaching, studying, conducting research, treating patients, serving the army and people, and in training a contingent of professional cadres during the past year."

The report says further that on 21 January, Comrade Do Muoi visited the convalescent center at Tu Liem ward in Hanoi. Accompanying the general secretary were Le Xuan Tung, deputy secretary of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee; and Tran Thi Tam Dan, deputy chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee. "Comrade Do Muoi solicitously inquired about the health of the elderly and those who were parents of fallen soldiers. After commending the Hanoi War Invalids and Social Welfare sector for its efforts in overcoming difficulties and in caring for these aged people, General Secretary Do Muoi asserted that our party, state, and people will always bear in mind the great sacrifices made by the sons and daughters of these families in the struggle for national independence."

The reports says that Comrade Do Muoi paid a Tet visit to the families of cadres, writers, artists, and intellectuals in Hanoi. He also called on Uncle Pham Ba Huynh, 92, the oldest member of the Vietnam Writers Association. "On the occasion of the traditional new year, Comrade Do Muoi extended his best wishes to the uncle and his family."

1992 Food Output Nearly 24 Million Tonnes

BK2201065693 Hanoi VNA in English 0606 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 22—In 1992 Vietnam planted around 6.3 million hectares of rice, 100,000 ha more than 1991 or almost equal to the cultivated area of a major province. According to first estimates of the general statistic bureau, paddy yield was nearly 21.5 million tonnes, nearly 1.6 million tonnes more than last [words indistinct] severe netural disasters in central Vietnam which caused the loss of tens of thousands of tonnes. Thus, together with around 2.5 million tonnes of subsidiary food crops in paddy equivalent, Vietnam in

1992 achieved a total food output of almost 24 million tonnes, or nearly 9 above plan and 2 million tonnes more than in 1991.

The Mekong River delta reaped nearly [word indistinct] million tonnes of paddy, accounting for nearly one half of the total paddy yield in the country. Nine provinces in the country achieved from one million to 1.7 million tonnes of food. They are Nam Ha and Hai Hung in the north, Minh Hai, Kien Giang, Tien Giang, Long An, Dong Thap, Can Tho and An Giang in the south. In the matter of productivity per land unit, two provinces achieved more than ten tonnes of paddy per hectare. They are Thai Binh Province in the Red River delta and An Giang Province in the Mekong River delta.

In 1992 the government adopted a series of policies to encourage agricultural production such as in the fields of land and strain improvement, irrugation and rainage, postharvest preservation, etc. Equally important is the wide application of technical and scientific advances by each farmer's household. For instance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry has instructed the delay by from 10 to 15 days of the planting of the winter-spring crop in order to avoid the cold spell which usually occurs at the end of April. In the Mekong River delta, the summer-autumn rice crop was planted from 15 days to one month later than usual to avoid the flood which used to occur at harvest time. In the Red River delta the farmers have conducted experimental planting of a series of hybrid rice and maize species which give much higher yields than the traditional ones. In the south, more pest-resistent species of rice were planted, especially those which are least vulnerable to the brown hoppers. As a result, in the winter-spring crop, the most important in the year, the whole country planted nearly 2.3 million hectares and achieved more than 3.85 tonnes per ha and a total output of 9.16 million tonnes, nearly 6 more than the corresponding crop in 1991 in terms of acreage and 0.7 tonnes in terms of productivity per hectares and 1.9 million tonnes in terms of total output.

The efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture in the search for new outlets aborad have also stimulated the farmers to increase production. The provinces in the Mekong River delta which account for the major part of commodity rice have purchased more than 200 rice-polishing machines to improve the quality of export rice.

Up to the present time, Vietnam has exported more than 1.4 million tonnes of rice.

The new mechanism of management and the incentive policies for agriculture have strengthened the confidence of farmers when they invest in intensive farming. In particular, the expansion of credit loans to all households of farmers has contributed to a large extent to the agricultural accomplishments in 1992. Total loans to the farmer exceeded 1,000 billion dong of which nearly 600 billion were loaned to farmers in the south especially those families which lacked funds for production and the areas with a large volume of commodity rice such as the plain of reeds, the Long Xuyen quadrangle and the plain in the western part of Hau River. These areas secounted for more than two million tonnes of commodity rice among a total of nearly five million tonnes in the whole Mekong delta.

Australia

Defense Spokesman Denies Weapons Sent to PNG

BK2201064293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Australia has rejected claims it is sending more military equipment to Papua New Guinea so it can be used against the Bougainville rebels. The self-styled Bougainville interim government said this week a ship carrying weapons, ammunition, and military hardware was on its way to Papua New Guinea [PNG].

PACNEWS reported the Bougainville interim government as saying Port Moresby would use the equipment to arm its Defense Forces for a new offensive against the secessionists. But, the spokeswoman for Australia's Defense Department in Canberra says Australia has not sent any military equipment by sea or air to Papua New Guinea recently, and a Foreign Affairs spokesman says Canberra has a formal agreement with the PNG Government that Australian-supplied equipment will not be used in an offensive manner against the Bougainville rebels.

PNG Defense Department said the Solomon Islands Government is ignoring a United Nations resolution by giving sanctuary to Bougainville rebels. The department secretary, (Peter Papul), has said in a statement that rebels were using Solomon Islands territory to purchase weapons for use against PNG. He said that despite violations of Solomon Islands law, very few people had been prosecuted and none had been deported to PNG.

Mr. (Papul) said the Solomon Islands Government was ignoring a UN resolution which required that all member states unconditionally respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries and not interfere in their internal affairs.

Western Australia, Russia To Open Food Trade

BK2501123693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Perth, Australia, Jan 25 (AFP)—The way has been cleared for major trading in food between Western Australia and Russia, Western Australian Agriculture Minister Ernie Bridge, said here on Monday.

Bridge said a major obstacle—Russia's lack of hard currency—had been overcome by the involvement of the Singapore government's trading arm, Intraco.

Intraco would buy and sell Russian produce, realising the hard currency for Western Australian products, he said.

Intraco would also buy meat, dairy goods, seafood, wool, fruit, grain and other produce from Western Australia to supply to the city of Vladivostok and the surrounding Primorsky Territory.

Western Australian goods were expected to be available in Vladivostok from March, Bridge said.

Five Russian trade officials, including the first vice-governor of the Primorsky Territory, Igor Tchernianski, have recently visited Perth to examine some of the goods available under the agreement.

Tchernianski said it was hoped the agreement would extend from basic foods to goods such as telecommunications equipment.

Managing director Graham Laitt, of the Western Australian company, Peters Foods (Western Australia) Pty Ltd, said his company were prepared to test several new products, including ice cream, in the Russian market.

Evans: GATT Failure Not Start of Trade War

BK2001105293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1258 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Brussels, Jan 19 (AFP)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, breaking with dire warnings of the past, said Tuesday that failure to conclude a global trade agreement would not necessarily mean the emergence of warring trade blocs.

Evans expressed disappointment that the United States and European Community had been unable to iron out their differences and pave the way for sweeping trade reform under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

But he said warnings that a failure of the six-year-old Uruguay Round of GATT talks could lead to a global trade war were outdated.

"It's not something you can close the book on, everybody's nightmare scenario of the world dividing up into three blocs," Evans told reporters towards the end of a two-day visit here.

"But it's not presently likely. The atmospherics and momentum are all going the other way," said Australia's chief diplomat, whose country chairs the Cairns Group of smaller farm-exporting states.

Evans, who met the Danish Presidency of the European Community in Copenhagen and saw EC foreign trade officials here on Monday, said that he had "some degree of optimism" that a GATT deal would be concluded before the deadline of March 2.

That is the last date for the new U.S. Administration in Washington to submit any package on a take-it-or-leave-it basis to the U.S. Congress before the government's "fast-track" authority expires.

Beyond that, Evans said, any GATT package was in danger of unravelling. He said that no issues were insurmountable between the Americans and Europeans and that "it's just a matter of getting the elephants to mate before March 2."

On another question, Evans again lashed out at the United States for its plans to export another 550,000 tonnes of subsidised wheat to Pakistan under the U.S. Export Enhancement Programme (EEP).

"We are not at all happy about it," Evans said. "We see it as a serious undermining of commitments that have been made to us."

Canberra has already lodged a protest with Washington about the planned U.S. sales, which it said could jeopardise Australian hopes of selling 400,000 tonnes of wheat to Pakistan on top of 200,000 tonnes delivered in 1992-93.

Fiji

Opposition Leader Holds Talks With Premier

BK2501070693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Fiji's opposition leader, Jai Ram Reddy, has released some details of talks with Prime Minister Rabuka on his plans for a government of national unity. Mr. Reddy, leader of the National Federation Party, said both sides expressed the desire to solve the country's political problems in an atmosphere of goodwill and understanding. He denied suggestions that he wanted the original 1970 constitution to be the basis for the formation of the new government.

However, Mr. Reddy did say, he told Mr. Rabuka the 1970 document should be the basis for talks on any future constitution because it was the last one approved of by all the country's communities. The opposition leader said the talks were held on a confidential basis and said he could not give full details at this stage.

Rabuka Outlines Proposed Unity Government

BK2601111093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has outlined details of his proposed national unity government. In a long interview with the Fiji monthly newspaper THE REVIEW, the prime minister says he wants a cabinet made up of politicians from across a political spectrum and a parliament without a formal opposition. Instead, the backbenchers will act as a kind of opposition keeping cabinet in line and providing alternatives during debate. Mr. Rabuka said that the chiefs-sponsored political party, the SVT [Fijian Political Party], would be ready to give up six of its ministries to opposition parties. The other 10 to 14 possible ministries would remain in a SVT hands. Mr. Rabuka believes Fiji Indians are concerned about remaining in permanent opposition.

French Ambassador Reaffirms Close Ties

BK2501072493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] France has reaffirmed its close ties with Fiji. Ambassador Henri Jacolin is finishing his post in Suva and at the farewell meeting with Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, he said France's Pacific territories have much to learn from Fiji. He said Paris regarded Fiji as being an important Pacific country not only for France, but also for its territories of New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, and French Polynesia.

Mr. Jacolin said that France wanted to further develop its relationships with Fiji for the benefit of both countries. Prime Minister Rabuka said he greatly appreciated France's support during what he called the difficult period after the coups of 1987.

New Zealand

Premier: U.S. Ties Depend on New Administration

LD2601093293 Wellington Radio New Zealand International in English 0800 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger says a return to a free and open relationship with the United States depends largely on the new Clinton administration. Mr. Bolger describes New Zealand's relations with the United States as still a little tense at a political and security level but he says he has been heartened by the recent comments from a key figure in the American Senate who suggested New Zealand should be one of the issues to be considered early by the new administration. Mr. Bolger believes it's in the interests of both New Zealand and the United States to put the (past) behind them. Relations between the two countries soured after New Zealand declared itself nuclear-free in 1984.